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SWEET REVENGE

Screenplay by Robert Greeley

From the novel by Jennifer Miller

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1857 CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

EXT: BEACH COVE EVENING

WOMAN, 17, blouse, skirt, rides horse near edge of hill.

WOMAN

Easy, Boy. We'd best get back,
before we're missed.

WOMAN scans cove, sees dim lights and moving figures.

I wonder who that might be, this
time of night. Maybe, pirates.

Dismounts, walks slowly down narrow path; trips over tree root, tumbles and rolls, slides down, to edge of beach. A tall, darkly clad man strides to her. It is too dark to see his face.

MAN

By the saints in heaven! 'Tis a
gift, from the gods!

Seven other men rush, gaze at her.

MAN

Go back to the ship, men. I'll
handle this, myself!

The men grin, hurry away. He pulls her to her feet, shoves his hips hard against her, smiles.

No need to be coy, little one. We
will serve each other well, this
night.

WOMAN

Let me go, you despicable scum.

WOMAN struggles to break free. MAN bends, kisses woman full on mouth, cups her breasts. WOMAN bends back, slaps man hard across face.

WOMAN

Don't touch me. Get the hell away
from me.

MAN, surprised, hardens look, lifts her into arms, carries
her to darker spot, lays her on sand, kneels, flips skirt
over her hips, undoes his breeches.

MAN

So, you prefer the rough way. At
your service, Madam!

He lowers himself onto her; tears her undergarment away:
inserts himself inside her: she screams in pain, sobs loudly,
closes eyes, looks away.

CUTS TO:

Crew, climbing into longboat, turn.

MAN #2

(Yells) Hey, SHAWN! The tide's
against us.

SHAWN

Damn! You seem to know your way,
around these parts. I apologize,
Miss, for my hasty departure.

SHAWN withdraws, caresses her thighs, stands, closes
breeches. Removes several coins from pocket, places in her
hand.

You can rest assured; I will look
you up, upon my return.

WOMAN

You bastard! I hate you! (Flings
coins away)

SHAWN

Maybe, one day, you'll change your
mind.

He strides quickly away.

WOMAN

Whoreson!

She walks to water's edge, scoops water, washes between her
thighs.

(MORE)

You'll pay for what you did to me,
this night! I swear, before God,
here and now! You will pay!

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

1860 CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

EXT: WHARF-WATERFRONT EVENING

Same WOMAN, wearing hat, beautiful, full-length dress, in horse-drawn carriage, sixty-year old black carriage driver, looking anxious.

WOMAN

No need for hesitation, now. Three years, I have waited, for this night. (Calls driver) Stop here, THOMAS. (Thomas stops, steps down, goes to her)

THOMAS

Are you sure you want to pursue this silly whim, Miss GABRIELLE?
(He opens door)

GABRIELLE

I most certainly do. Help me down, then tend to the team. (Softens voice) Be a dear, Thomas. I won't be long.

THOMAS

If your pa finds out, about this, he'll have both our hides.

GABRIELLE

Nonsense. We'll be back, well before he awakens. Do as I ask. I'll be fine. Now, hurry.

Drunken laughter, women squealing, a hound howls, street lamps flicker. THOMAS walks team toward stables. GABRIELLE clutches her cloak around her, hurries, passes a woman.

WOMAN

Hey, love. Work yer own side.

GABRIELLE

(Stops, turns) Pardon me.

WOMAN

I said, work yer own side 'o the street. (Woman looks closely at her) My fault, Miss. I mistook ya for one of us whores. Are ya lost, maybe?

GABRIELLE

No; I mean, yes, I am. I'm looking for Molly's.

WOMAN

(Laughs) Yer lookin' fer Molly's?

GABRIELLE

I'm a dancer. I'm down and out and need a job.

WOMAN

Oh, I believe ya, dearie. You sure don't look like no whore. Molly's is straight ahead, on the left.

GABRIELLE hurries forward, looks nervously around.

MALE VOICE

(Slurs words) Well, what have we, here?

Sailor, 30, teeth missing, steps to her, spitting tobacco, tankard of ale in hand.

GABRIELLE

Get out of my way, you filthy bastard. You're blocking my way.

MAN

After I have my way with ya.

He grabs her cloak with free hand. Quiet VOICE speaks behind him.

VOICE

Let go of her.

MAN

Go find yer own wench.

VOICE

(Still in shadows, cocks, points pistol) Let her go, or I'll shoot you dead.

MAN

What kinda man'd kill another, just
out ta have some fun?

VOICE

I don't mind killing you but, the
lady wouldn't enjoy it.

MAN

I don't want no trouble, Mister.

MAN turns away; suddenly pulls knife from waistband, throws at voice, misses by inches, hits post; man shoots once; hits man in heart; man drops to ground, motionless. Voice steps into light. Gabrielle stares at him.

SHAWN

Are you alright? Let's move away
from here, fast.

They walk quickly down street; stop in shadows.

GABRIELLE

Only because you happened along.
How can I ever thank you?

SHAWN

Don't you realize the scum that
walk these streets?

GABRIELLE

(Sarcastically) Only too well.

SHAWN

Perhaps, I shouldn't have
interfered.

GABRIELLE

(Smiling) I do want to thank you,
Mister.....

SHAWN

(Bows with slight arrogance) SHAWN
BEAUDRY, at your service, Madam.
May I escort you to your
destination.

GABRIELLE

I accept your offer, Mister
Beaudry. I've had enough excitement
for this evening.

SHAWN

One so beautiful, must have a name.

GABRIELLE

Lila. Lila Bennett. You may escort
me to Molly's.

SHAWN

You can't mean the Molly's I know.

GABRIELLE

I mean, the brothel.

SHAWN

(Grins) It seems luck is with me,
tonight.

SHAWN puts arm around her, turns her into him, kisses her full on mouth.

GABRIELLE

(Pushes Shawn away) I am not one of
your doxies.

SHAWN

Madam. Worry not about the coins I
will give you.

GABRIELLE

My meeting with Molly is more
important than your coins. I'm a
professional dancer.

SHAWN

I have a feeling we've met, before.

GABRIELLE

(Cool) If we have, I don't remember
you.

He ushers GABRIELLE to doorway; opens it. They enter. Twenty girls, dressed in dresses, thirty men, mostly sailors, grab them, kiss them. Pianist, three musicians play raucous music.
(song) WE'RE BACK FROM THE ROLLING SEA

SHAWN

(Looks at beautiful, buxom woman,
35) MOLLY; I want you to meet Miss
Lila Bennett.

MOLLY

Why, Shawn Beaudry. When did you start bringing your pleasure with you?

SHAWN

Miss Bennett is a dancer. Hire her, Molly and you'll have every buck east of the Mississippi, coming.

GABRIELLE

I'm happy to meet you, Molly. I need a job, as a dancer, only.

SHAWN

I'll let you get acquainted, while I find a drink. (He walks away)

MOLLY

We'll have some privacy over here, Lila.

They walk to corner, sit.

GABRIELLE

A drunk accosted me and Mister Beaudry rescued me.

MOLLY

(To a waitress) Bring us a sherry. Is that alright with you? Tell me about yourself.

GABRIELLE

Of course. Well, there's not much to tell. I've had a dull life.

MOLLY

You're too beautiful for that but, I don't pry. (Girl brings sherry, they sip)

GABRIELLE

I lost my family, young; was raised by an aunt who resented her suitors giving me too much of their attention. She shipped me off to Paris, as far away as she could afford. That's where I learned to dance.

MOLLY

I can imagine her jealousy. If ya become one of my girls, I will make ya a very wealthy woman.

GABRIELLE

Let me show you my dancing. (Opens cloak, shows low-cut dress, tops of breasts) I can attract even more men than you have at your busiest; more than you can handle.

MOLLY

Dancin' is not my thing. Straight, old-fashioned sex, is. I don't know. What kinda dancin' is it?

GABRIELLE

Spanish and Gypsy. It's very sensual.

MOLLY

Ya won't change your mind about wenching?

GABRIELLE

No. (Smiles) If I can't show you my dancing, perhaps the next place will let me. Thank you for speaking with me. (Gabrielle stands)

MOLLY

(Quickly) Hold on, now. When I get nervous, like I am now, I don't like it. The next place'll hire you and all my men will be mad at me and go ta see you. That's my luck.

GABRIELLE

(Starts to walk away) I don't want to force myself on you.

MOLLY

Wait. (Smiles) Shawn and his friends are my best customers. Maybe some fresh beauty in here'll work but, if it fails, I'll have ta let ya go. I'll announce ya.

GABRIELLE

No. My dancing will announce me.

GABRIELLE removes cloak, walks to pianist, whispers in ear. He nods, starts playing Spanish/Gypsy music.

(Nuestros Cuerpos) (Our Bodies)

GABRIELLE, erect, freezes for 3 seconds, starts dancing. She raises arms, extends hands, snaps fingers, sways, leans, turns, smiles at SHAWN. She moves along the semi-circle of men instantly gathering, smiling. She looks intensely, many times, at SHAWN, as she turns, beckons, tantalizes, with sensual smile, dramatic stepping. MOLLY walks to SHAWN.

MOLLY

I can see what you think, Shawn.

GABRIELLE writhes, seething with emotion and sexuality, tilts chin, tosses head back, arrogant look, pulsating throbbing to the increasing tempo, a look of complete ecstasy on face, ends, stands still, with arms raised, hands arched. Men stare in awe for 5 seconds, then cheer wildly.

Gentlemen; MOLLY'S has gone to enormous expense, to entreat MISS LILA BENNETT to leave Paris, France, to come here and entertain you, with her exquisite dancing. You will treat her with the utmost respect or she will return to Paris. Do I make myself clear?

Men howl, cheer, laugh loud, smile at GABRIELLE. SHAWN, GABRIELLE, MOLLY clasp each others' hands, smile.

Let's sit, for a moment and plan your schedule.

GABRIELLE

And my compensation.

SHAWN

(Grins) Beautiful and a good business head, too!

CUT TO:

EXT: OUTSIDE MOLLY'S 15 MINUTES LATER

SHAWN, GABRIELLE walk. Light rain falls.

SHAWN

Remember, Lila. You promised to dance again, tomorrow.

GABRIELLE
I will. I promise.

SHAWN
Now, I will escort you, wherever
you choose to go.

GABRIELLE
(Arrogant) You presume too much,
sir. I don't wish to go anywhere,
with you.

SHAWN
Do you prefer to be alone, here?
You're getting wet, Lila. My place
is around the corner.

GABRIELLE
Your den of iniquity? My slippers
are getting soaked.

SHAWN
I can't leave you here and I'm not
getting drenched, while you decide.

SHAWN lifts her in his arms, walks quickly around corner,
opens door, kicks closed, carries her upstairs, opens door to
room.

GABRIELLE
Put me down, you cur. Put me down!

SHAWN
Yes, m'am. Your wish is my command.

SHAWN dumps GABRIELLE on bed. He starts removing his clothes.

GABRIELLE
What are you doing?

SHAWN
You were most tantalizing at
Molly's, with your dance, just for
me. All the other men didn't know;
they thought it was for them.

SHAWN is naked to waist, removes his breeches.

GABRIELLE
Your arrogance knows no bounds. I'd
rather drown, outside.

SHAWN

I prefer you undress yourself and
dance your way to me but, in your
case, I don't mind undressing you.

GABRIELLE

You conceited bastard. Don't you
dare touch me.

SHAWN straddles her, reaches behind her, undoes her dress, slides it down, off her, lays it on bed; undoes her bodice, Lays it on dress. Both are naked. He lies beside her, on his back; watches her. Her breasts heave, get more excited. He turns on top of her; does not touch her with hands. She wraps her arms around his neck, pushes her mouth into his. They kiss wildly; caress each other all over.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

INT: SHAWN'S ROOM 2 HOURS LATER

Rain has stopped. GABRIELLE arises, carefully, quickly dresses, looks at SHAWN, leaves room, hurries down stairs, turns, walks quickly to livery stables. Opens carriage door. THOMAS is asleep inside; awakens, startled.

THOMAS

Miss Gabrielle! I looked around for
you but, couldn't find you. I was
so worried. Where were you?

GABRIELLE

I met some nice people and had a
good time. (Smiles) Let's go home.

THOMAS

I can't do this anymore, Miss.
Please don't ask me. I just can't!
I can't go against your pa.
Somethin' bad'll happen.

THOMAS climbs onto seat; team runs away.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

EXT: DOCKS MORNING

Large sailing ship is docked. SHAWN is lifting keg. Ten men are loading ship. SHAWN, other man, tall, muscular, talk.

SHAWN

Hey, MORGAN. I have to rest a bit.

MORGAN

Rough night, Cap'n? Ya look like ya wrestled the devil, himself.

SHAWN

(Laughs) A female devil. A witch!

MORGAN

I didn't see ya at the tavern.
Hanson and I needed ya help with
two fights.

SHAWN

I was engaged in a battle of wits,
with the most beautiful woman ever;
mysterious, devious, up to
something but, I don't know what.

MORGAN

Nah, no mystery. They all want
money and a home in the woods.

SHAWN

Morgan; you just solved the mystery
of the ages. (Laughs)

SHAWN walks to ship. (Calls to MORGAN)

That Ducett man is due here ,
anytime. When he arrives, send him
to me. (Walks quickly up ramp)

Tall, well-dressed man, 55, strides confidently onto dock,
stops by MORGAN; MORGAN smiles, points to ship; man boards
ship, looks around. SHAWN walks to him.

Welcome aboard, Mister Ducett.
(Shake hands warmly)

DUCETT

Thank you, Shawn. A fine ship you
have and your crew is impressive.

SHAWN

Let's start at the bow.

DUCETT

Where are you from, lad?

SHAWN

Virginia, sir.

DUCETT

My wife and I traveled there many times; lovely country. Since I lost her, my daughter and I haven't gone.

SHAWN

I'm sorry about your wife, Sir.
Here's the forward storage area.

SHAWN, DUCETT glance around.

DUCETT

I love your incredible use of space.

SHAWN

My partner, Morgan, planned it, here and in all the other holds.

DUCETT

I have a large tobacco plantation southwest of here, Despite my warehouses, I'm short of space. So I propose moving my crops directly to the Keys, New Orleans, Galveston and Vera Cruz. Places you commonly go, as I've been told.

SHAWN

I understand. That's why we can be a good fit. During my early years, we didn't even ask what the cargo was. We didn't want to know what was legal or not.

DUCETT

(Laughs) Those were dangerous days. Hopefully, piracy will continue to decline.

SHAWN

I have a crew of forty-nine men, twelve cannon, two swivel guns primed; ready to fire at all times. Also, we are heavily armed in all other ways.

DUCETT

I'm impressed with you, Shawn. More than just hiring you, I want a partner. A man I feel comfortable with, that I can trust; a strong, inventive man.

They walk to the gangplank.

SHAWN

You honor me, with your consideration, Mister Ducett. I shall reward you with my utmost effort. (They shake)

DUCETT

Come by my office, about five, today and we'll seal our deal. Bring your man, Morgan. Across from the mercantile.

DUCETT leaves. MORGAN walks up plank; SHAWN smiles. DUCETT stops on dock, look at sky.

DUCETT

I see you, Rachel. (Smiles) I can see us conspiring to fix our headstrong daughter up with this chap, Beaudry. He might be just the man to handle her.

CUT TO:

INT: GIRARD'S LADIES' SHOPPE LATE MORNING

GABRIELLE looks at dresses. GIRARD, a slight, nattily-dressed man, walks to her.

GABRIELLE

This yellow gown appears to be my size but, I'm in a hurry, Girard.

GIRARD

Oh, Miss Ducett; this is my favorite and I would be thrilled to have you wear it. Take it with you and return it, if you change your mind.

She turns, sees SHAWN, elegantly-dressed, staring at her from outside. He enters.

GIRARD walks to GABRIELLE; hands dress, wrapped; walks away. GABRIELLE, ignores SHAWN, starts to walk past him, quickly. Trips on long package. SHAWN catches her, pulls her to him.

SHAWN

I hoped to see you again, today,
Miss Bennett. I'd like to see you
in that dress, before I remove it.

GABRIELLE

I hoped I wouldn't see you. You
took advantage of me in the rain.
It will never happen, again.

SHAWN

You lie. You know it will happen,
again and again, rain or not.

GABRIELLE

I don't want to hurt your feelings
but, you were a disappointment. I'm
busy. I'm shopping for my
employers. That's why the dress.

SHAWN

Your employers?

GABRIELLE

If you must know, I'm a maid.

SHAWN turns her hand and fingernails to him. They are manicured.

SHAWN

(Smiling) Why do I feel you're a
liar. You may not be but, my
instincts are usually right.

GABRIELLE

Your instincts bore me, sir.
Shouldn't you be on the docks,
ripping clothes off some harlot?

SHAWN

Your insults are like music to my
ears. The more fierce your insults,
the more ferocious you will be,
when we next consume each other.

GABRIELLE

You are a depraved, egotistical
loathsome, despicable, whoreson.

SHAWN

Be careful. You're getting so emotional, you'll be tearing my clothes off me, right here.

GABRIELLE

(Red-faced) (Loud) You... I.... hate you!

GIRARD, startled, looks up, wide-eyed.

GABRIELLE storms out of store, trips on wrapped dress, walks away. SHAWN laughs, shakes head.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

INT: GABRIELLE'S BEDROOM LATE MORNING

She wears yellow dress, preens in front of long mirror.

40 year-old woman enters.

GABRIELLE

AGNES? What do you think?

AGNES

Pretty. Now, go downstairs and have breakfast, with your father, before he goes to work and you don't see him all day.

GABRIELLE smiles; walks down stairs, enters dining room. DUCETT looks up, smiles.

DUCETT

I'm happy you're having breakfast with me. You're looking more and more like your mother and it's like her being here, too. A new dress? Very pretty.

GABRIELLE

Yes. We both miss her so much, Papa. I want to go to work, with you, today. (She eats)

DUCETT

You do? Another day. I'm going to the docks, today. It's a bad area.

(MORE)

DUCETT(cont'd)

Have you decided who will escort
you to your "coming out" ball?

GABRIELLE

I dread all my "so-called" suitors.
All put together, they don't total
one real man. I might ask you.

DUCETT

Try keeping one around long enough
to give him a chance. I want heirs
to take over my estate. I want
grandchildren to spoil. (Teary)

GABRIELLE

Stands, walks to DUCETT, hugs him.

Mama and you loved each other. Is
it wrong for me to want the same,
for myself? (Her eyes fill with
tears)

DUCETT

No, daughter, it's not. Take a
closer look and find someone. Okay?

GABRIELLE

I'll try. I really will. Maybe,
I'll visit Paris, again and find
someone, there.

DUCETT

What! I'm trying to run a large
business and am engaged in critical
decisions every day. You are doing
your best to drive me crazy! You
will not return to Paris; period!
Do not mention Paris, again!

GABRIELLE

Yes, Papa. (Resigned) I'm going to
change and ride Majestic, about a
bit. I just wanted to show you my
new dress.

DUCETT, still upset, looks after her; she leaves.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

INT: DUCETT'S OFFICE 5 IN AFTERNOON

SHAWN, MORGAN, stand inside. DUCETT enters from rear room.

DUCETT
You're here. Good.

SHAWN
Mister Ducett; this is my friend,
Morgan Stewart. Morgan; Mister
Ducett. (They shake hands)

MORGAN
An honor, sir. Shawn is really
excited about this new venture.

DUCETT
So am I. My warehousemen can't be
here now but, I'll introduce you,
later. Please, sit. (They sit)
I told Shawn how amazed I was at
your storage arrangements and I'd
like you to apply your technique to
my facilities here and all the way
to Vera Cruz.

MORGAN
I'll be happy to do so, Mister
Ducett.

SHAWN
How can we be of service, Sir.

DUCETT
I made a list of everything I
propose, including our partnership
and your compensation. I'll show
you around, now. (Hands packet to
Shawn) Take this with you, check
it; if you like it, sign it. You
are part of this, too, Morgan.
There's a place for you to sign,
also. (All smile)

All stand; DUCETT leads way to rear.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

EXT: COVE-BEACH THAT NIGHT 8 PM

GABRIELLE, wears peasant blouse, skirt, rides Majestic down trail to beach. Spreads coverlet, drops towel, disrobes, places clothes on coverlet, runs into water, swims 50 feet, looks out to sea.

CUTS TO:

TOP OF CLIFF

SHAWN rides Rascal, watches GABRIELLE, dismounts.

SHAWN
Easy, Rascal. Quiet, now.

SHAWN walks down trail, quietly. He eases to her clothes, lifts them, places them behind tree 30 feet to right; walks past coverlet 30 feet, then to water's edge. GABRIELLE sees him, swims to shoulder-length water-depth.

GABRIELLE
This is my private-time. Please leave. Are all pirates this rude?

SHAWN
I saw you riding; wanted to see where you'd go. I can't help it if you like being naked, just anywhere. Of course, I'll look, since you have no modesty.

GABRIELLE
You have ruined a perfectly good evening. Please turn away, while I get dressed.

SHAWN
It's somewhat late, Lila, to be bashful but, alright. (Shawn turns away, folds arms)

GABRIELLE walks to coverlet.

GABRIELLE
(Angry) Where are my clothes?

SHAWN
What clothes? You rode here, naked.

GABRIELLR
I've never despised anyone so
much...ever!

SHAWN
I'll give you your clothes, after
you answer a few questions.

GABRIELLE lifts towel, wraps it around her.

GABRIELLE
If I must, I'll play your stupid
game. Ask me.

SHAWN
Why weren't you at Molly's? You
promised.

GABRIELLE
I said that to get rid of you.

SHAWN
(Calmly) Liar!

GABRIELLE
My employer took ill.

SHAWN
Liar.

GABRIELLE
There's another man.

SHAWN
Liar. The way your body penetrated
mine, there couldn't be another
man. You almost went through me.

GABRIELLE
You flatter yourself.

SHAWN removes his clothes.
Don't you dare touch me.

SHAWN
I don't plan to. I'm just going for
a swim. Care to join me?

He runs to water.

GABRIELLE
(Wistful) You don't? I mean... No!
(Yells) I hope you drown!

SHAWN dives into water, swims far out, into choppy waters; disappears. GABRIELLE stomps around sand; looks; tries to see him but cannot.

Shawn? (Pause, louder) Shawn?
 (Pause) I can't see you. Where are
 you? (No answer; waves rougher)
 (Loud) Shawn! (No answer; waves
 crash against opposite cliffs)

GABRIELLE drops towel; dives into water, swims fast toward SHAWN. Reaches rough water; currents pull her out; she panics:

HELP!! HELP !!

The currents pull her under. Suddenly, SHAWN'S hands grab her waist, shoot her to the surface, gasping.

SHAWN
 What the hell are you doing,
 getting yourself drowned?

SHAWN swims on back, arm around Gabrielle's waist. Stands, cradles her, carries her ashore. Lays her on coverlet; pulls breeches on: dries her with towel, covers her with towel; retrieves her clothes; she lays there, exhausted. He slides blouse over her head; slides skirt onto her waist.

(Laughs lightly) This is new for
 me; to be DRESSING a beautiful
 woman.

GABRIELLE
 (Sobs) I thought you drowned.

SHAWN
 (Solemn) You risked your life, to
 save mine?

GABRIELLE
 It would have been my fault.

SHAWN
 And mine, if you drowned. I'd have
 never forgiven myself.

GABRIELLE
 Why, Shawn?

SHAWN
 You have found a special place in
 my heart, sweet Lila.

GABRIELLE turns face away.
 I am not a dragon, to be feared.
 (MORE)

You are the very breath, I take.
The sun, that warms my existence.

GABRIELLE

You care this much, for me. You
know nothing, about me. I am not
what you think.

SHAWN

Harlot of Charleston, dancer of
brothels; I care not. I want you,
more than life itself.

GABRIELLE

(Lifts blouse over head; slides
skirt down; lies there)

SHAWN kisses her, lightly, then deeper, deeper; they engulf
each other, rhythmically entwined.

CUT TO:

EXT: COVE BEACH LATER

GABRIELLE, SHAWN, dressed, walk horses to trail top.

SHAWN

I'll take you home.

GABRIELLE

That's not possible, at this time.

SHAWN

Then, meet me at the Flagship, at
seven o'clock, tomorrow evening.

GABRIELLE

I'll be there. I promise.

She kisses SHAWN, lightly, mounts Majestic, rides away. SHAWN
looks after her.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

INT: GABRIELLE'S ROOM MORNING

AGNES

Your Papa would be furious, if he
knew you swim at that cove.

GABRIELLE

(Wears green dress) Nothing ever happens.

AGNES

You always come home, looking awful.

GABRIELLE

I might not go, anymore. Happy, now?

AGNES

Yes, I am. (Smiles)

GABRIELLE

I'm wearing my green dress, father's favorite.

AGNES

That means, you're up to something. What is it, this time?

GABRIELLE

Actually, I'm being very unselfish. I want to help him, in his business.

AGNES

It's about time. He'll be so happy.

GABRIELLE walks downstairs, enters dining-room. DUCETT is eating, smiles. She sits, eats.

GABRIELLE

You said something about expanding your business, yesterday. What does that mean?

DUCETT

Your asking about our business is refreshing. Why?

GABRIELLE

I want to ask you a favor, Papa.

DUCETT

Just so it's not about Paris.

GABRIELLE

No, Papa. I want to go to work with you, every day. I want to help you;
(MORE)

GABRIELLE (cont'd)
not just run to stores, buying
clothes.

DUCETT
(Smiles broadly) I've waited such a
long time, for this; such a long
time.

GABRIELLE
I want to start, today. Ride in,
with you; have you tell me
everything.

DUCETT
Alright. We are expanding our
tobacco business. Yesterday, I
arranged to collaborate with two
fine men, who have a first-class
ship, to move and warehouse tobacco
and other goods, all the way to
Vera Cruz.

GABRIELLE
Are they honest, Papa? What, if
they turn out to be pirates?

DUCETT
I checked them out, before I even
met them. I want you to meet them.
I'm inviting them to your ball. I'm
not sure if sailors are good
dancers but, we'll see.

GABRIELLE
I doubt it, Papa. (Laughs) Sailors
drink, fight, swear, accost women,
go to brothels and are not who you
invite to a ball. Maybe, a brawl!

DUCETT
(Laughs) How do you know this?

GABRIELLE
(Frowns) I hear all sorts of
things, in town. I'd probably run
for my life, if I met one.

DUCETT
You'll get your chance.

GABRIELLE
I hear there are pirates, right
here in Charleston.

DUCETT
 If there are, God help them.
 They'll be caught and hanged.

GABRIELLE, shocked, knocks water-glass over.

GABRIELLE
 That's horrible. Hang them?

DUCETT
 'Till they're dead. Scum, like
 that. Hanging's too good for them.

GABRIELLE
 I don't feel well, Papa.

DUCETT
 The fresh air, on the way to work,
 will make you feel fine. Let's go!

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT: DUCETT MANSION BALLROOM 7 PM

DUCETT walks leisurely through the crowd of elegantly-dressed ladies and gentlemen. A ten-piece orchestra plays a waltz. (Dancing With My Girl) Guests grip DUCETT'S arm, nod approval, smile. Waiters serve drinks and hor d'oeuvres.

CUT TO:

INT: DUCETT MANSION GABRIELLE'S BEDROOM SAME TIME

AGNES
 Alright, young lady. Let's see you.

GABRIELLE
 (Walks to Agnes, wears bright red, floor-length gown)
 Father hasn't seen my gown, Agnes.
 Might he think it too bright?

AGNES
 No. He'll be so proud, he'll about jump, out of his skin. Like me!

GABRIELLE
 (They hug) We're about to find out.
 He invited two sailors.
 (MORE)

GABRIELLE (cont'd)

I'll be so embarrassed, if they hoot and holler, stomp their feet, whistle and all that.

AGNES

Where did you get notions, like that?

GABRIELLE

I hear all sorts of things, in town. (Takes deep breath) Agnes; let's go!

MAESTRO

(Music stops) Ladies and gentlemen, I present to you, Miss Gabrielle Ducett. (Applause)

GABRIELLE walks to staircase, smiles, slowly descends as all turn, look, smile. DUCETT meets her at bottom, takes her arm.

DUCETT

I hope I don't cry. You are so beautiful, my dear.

GABRIELLE kisses DUCETT on cheek. Many gather around her. Camera scans to SHAWN, MORGAN, at far wall. Both are dressed, elegantly. SHAWN'S face is shocked, livid with rage.

MORGAN

Shawn; look at her. What a beauty! (Looks at Shawn) What's wrong? Are you alright?

SHAWN

(Face becomes composed) I'm alright, Morgan.

Camera scans to DUCETT, GABRIELLE.

DUCETT

Before you are overwhelmed, by your suitors, I want you to meet the two men, I am partnering with. (Sees SHAWN, MORGAN) Oh, there you are. (SHAWN, MORGAN wait; DUCETT leads GABRIELLE to them. She is looking at an elderly guest.)

GABRIELLE

Missus Langley; you are the one I wanted most to come, this evening. (Hugs her, turns, is facing SHAWN, freezes, eyes huge)

DUCETT

Shawn; Morgan. I finally am able and pleased to introduce you to my daughter, Gabrielle. Gabrielle; Shawn Beaudry and his friend, Morgan Stewart.

SHAWN

Your father did not underestimate your beauty, Miss Ducett. (Takes her right hand. kisses it; squeezes it hard; she yanks it away) I'm sure you have all the other qualities that accompany great beauty.

GABRIELLE

(Pause) It's a pleasure to meet you, Mister Beaudry. When father said two sailors were coming to my ball, I imagined broken teeth, unshaven, smelly and all that. (Laughs)

DUCETT

Daughter! What's gotten into you? Pay no attention to her, Shawn. Once in awhile, she makes no sense.

SHAWN

That's quite alright, Mister Ducett. I take a bath every Saturday, whether I need it or not. (Smiles; Morgan stares at him) And as luck would have it, today's Saturday! (Smiles)

DUCETT

Good retort, Shawn. Put her in her place! (Laughs) You showed her.

Two suitors tug on GABRIELLE'S sleeve.
Save a waltz later, for your Papa.

GABRIELLE

What about you, Mister Beaudry? Did I get your name right? Shall I save you a dance?

SHAWN

If you'll be there, Miss Ducett, when it's time and not fail to appear.

GABRIELLE gives phony smile; walks away, with suitors.

CUT TO:

INT: DUCETT MANSION BALLROOM LATER

SHAWN walks toward GABRIELLE. She sees SHAWN, taps a portly man on arm. He turns; SHAWN stops.

GABRIELLE
My dear Count. I believe, this is
our dance.

COUNT glances at SHAWN, waiting.

COUNT
I am too warm, Miss Ducett, to
dance, right now. I yield my moment
to this fine, young man, awaiting
you. (Walks away)

SHAWN takes GABRIELLE'S arm firmly, leads her to floor,
starts dancing.

SHAWN
I've never danced, with two women,
at the same time, before. I might
forget and call you Lila.

GABRIELLE
I've never danced, with a pirate,
before. Just imagine; a dancing
pirate. My father didn't check you
closely enough. If he did, you'd be
dancing, alright but, at the end of
a rope.

SHAWN
Evidently, your hobby is making
fools of people. Your father;
myself; Molly. Is there some rhyme
or reason, Miss Gabrielle Bennett?

GABRIELLE
It's too bad your manners don't
match your attire. You're holding
me, too tightly.

SHAWN
My hands should be around your
pretty, little neck.

GABRIELLE

How dare you threaten me, you
pompous, self-centered scoundrel?

SHAWN

You owe me an explanation; you
witch!

GABRIELLE

I owe you nothing.

Music stops. SHAWN firmly grips her arm, leads her outside to a dark, private spot.

SHAWN

I'm waiting. Or, shall I invite
your father and congratulate him on
returning from the dead.

GABRIELLE

I met you; we bedded; I lied. So
what! Do you like my dress?

SHAWN

The red matches your bloody trail
of deceit. Your lies about being
penniless and an orphan are beyond
repulsive. Good-night, Miss
"whoever you are"; (Sarcastically)
"whatever you are".

SHAWN strides inside, joins DUCETT.

DUCETT

Shawn; Gabrielle and yourself make
an attractive couple.

SHAWN

I'll be up at four; we sail at six,
sir. I must leave now. This has
been a most revealing evening. Good-
night.

SHAWN bows slightly, walks away. DUCETT looks perplexed.
GABRIELLE stops at doorway, tears in eyes.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

EXT: ATLANTIC OCEAN MORNING

Camera scans stern to bow, showing "SEA LION" on bow. Ship races through water. Scans deck, SHAWN at helm; MORGAN joins him. Medium fog.

MORGAN

It's good to be at sea, again,
Shawn.

SHAWN

That it is, Morgan; that it is.

MORGAN

What was goin' on, last night?

SHAWN

(Smiles) I don't want to talk about it, right now. Have the men re-check the cannons and the hatches.

MORGAN

Sure thing, Cap'n. (He leaves)

SAILOR

(Walks to Shawn carries mug, with coffee) I figured ya need some coffee, 'bout now, Cap.

SHAWN

Thanks, BRIAN. (Takes mug, sips)
How's the crew doing?

BRIAN

All's well, above and below, sir.
Except the new lad. He's pukin' his guts out, over the side.

SHAWN

He'll get seaworthy, fast. Give him extra duty; keeping him busy is the best cure.

CUT TO:

INT: BELOW DECKS SAME TIME

MORGAN is checking straps, with another man. Two others watch.

SAILOR

Hey, Morgan. I hear we might run
inta the Black Ship.

MORGAN

(Laughs) Does that bother ya,
HANSON? You like a good fight; at
least, over a woman. (All laugh)

HANSON

Tell the cap'n, we're ready for
anything. Bring on the Black Ship!

MORGAN runs up staircase, walks to SHAWN.

MORGAN

The men say they're ready for
anything. They asked about the
Black Ship.

CUT TO:

EXT: GULF OF MEXICO DAY

SEA LION DECK. SHAWN at helm. MORGAN near.

MORGAN

It's been a smooth five days, so
far, Shawn. We're already halfway
through the gulf.

SHAWN

See the gulls way back there?

MORGAN

Yeah!

SHAWN

My guess is there's a ship behind
us; maybe following us.

MORGAN

The Black Ship? We're as ready as
we can be. Should I alert the crew?

SHAWN

You might as well. We'll try to
reach Dusty's Cove. We're still too
far from Galveston. I have a weird
feeling, it's Barney's men.
(MORE)

SHAWN(cont'd)

We can't outrun his Black Ship so,
we have to choose a spot, where we
even the odds as best we can.

CUT TO:

GULF OF MEXICO NEAR COVE SEA LION DECK 1 HOUR LATER

SHAWN alone, at helm. Medium fog, haze. BRIAN runs to SHAWN.

BRIAN

Lookout says a ship, just one, is
closin' in, Cap'n.

SHAWN

Damn fog lets them get so close,
without us seeing them. (Looks
through telescope) Get Morgan up
here.

BRIAN runs to hatch.

BRIAN

(Yells) Morgan! Topside!

BRIAN runs to SHAWN. MORGAN appears from hatch, runs to
SHAWN. SHAWN hands him telescope.

MORGAN

(Yells) Gunners ready!

Thirty-six men run to twelve cannon positions. Four men run
to front, rear swivel guns. Six riflemen run to bow, carry
boxes of ammunition; set up in protected positions.

SHAWN

Ready to fire. Starboard.

MORGAN

(Yells) Ready to fire! Starboard!

SHAWN spins wheel right as hard as he can. Ship turns.

MORGAN

Brian; cover below. I'll handle
topside. (BRIAN runs through hatch)

MORGAN looks through telescope, sees shadowy ship, scans
flagpole, haze hides identity. He sees a flash; a shot sails
overhead, misses. MORGAN sees Black Ship flag.

MORGAN

The Black Ship!

Second shot hits Sea Lion rear railing, deck, two sailors fly through air, fall.

SHAWN
Fire!

Front, rear swivel guns, Six cannon fire at Black Ship. Black ship rear swivel gun rakes Sea Lion rear deck. First Sea Lion cannon shot misses. Second shot hits bow, one sailor hit; third shot hits small, rear mast; it shatters, falls. 3 sailors fall. Swivel guns rake decks. Shawn holds wheel hard right; still in tight turn. Two shots from Black Ship land where Sea Lion was. Sea Lion comes about.

SHAWN
Fire!

Fourth, fifth cannon shots land Black Ship bow. Six sailors fall. Sixth, seventh shots hit forward masts. Swivel gun smashed, two sailors fall. Sea Lion riflemen open fire. Black Ship shot hits Sea Lion deck; SHAWN thrown against mast; head hits mast, bleeds. Large splinters enter his right hip. Wheel spins freely, left. He pulls himself up, grabs wheel, forces it all the way, right; holds tight. Two Black ship shots miss.

Keep firing. Sink the scum!

Six riflemen fire rapidly at Black Ship. Eight riflemen fire at Sea Lion. Eighth, ninth, tenth Sea Lion shots hit main mast and kills helmsman. Main mast collapses. Five sailors thrown about. Eleventh, twelfth Sea Lion shots hit rear deck, destroy swivel gun, four sailors fall. Thirteenth shot hits powder storage. Black Ship explodes, bodies fly, flames, smoke rise high into sky. MORGAN runs to SHAWN.

MORGAN
She's sinkin', Cap'n. She's
sinkin'!

Looks at SHAWN. Sailors run to railing, watch Black Ship sinking, cheer loudly. Five sailors run through hatch from below, run to watch.

SHAWN
(Yells) Cease fire! Morgan; Take over. Resume course. Brian; check the men; then check the cargo.

Four Black Ship sailors swim. MORGAN looks hard at SHAWN.

MORGAN
Do we pick 'em up?

SHAWN?
Would they pick us up?

MORGAN
No! If they did, it would be to
dismember us and throw us to the
sharks. (Pause) My god, Shawn.
You're hurt, bad!

BRIAN runs below, looks around. One sailor is badly wounded.
Others tend to him. BRIAN runs up steps, runs to stern area.
Two sailors are dead. He checks them for a few seconds; runs
forward to Shawn.

BRIAN
(Out of breath) Jeffrey and Wills,
shot to hell, sir. Kevin's badly
wounded. Doc's with him. I'll send
him ta treat ya, in a minute,
Cap'n.

SHAWN collapses, unconscious. HANSON runs to them.

MORGAN
Hanson: take over. Resume course.
Brian; help me get him, below.
Careful now!

HANSON takes wheel. MORGAN, BRIAN lift SHAWN, carry him down
steps, into cabin, lay him on bed. MORGAN checks SHAWN'S hip.
Nasty. Get DOC up here, fast.

BRIAN leaves. MORGAN opens cabinet, removes three bottles of
whiskey.

It'll take at least this much ta
help kill the pain.

Sets bottles on table. DOC, BRIAN enter..

DOC
Jesus, Morgan. What a mess!

DOC cuts breeches away, quickly, pours whiskey on wounds.
Wash your hands; then get set to
hold him, if he wakes up. Try to
get some whiskey into him to help.

MORGAN, BRIAN wash hands, dry them, hold SHAWN by shoulders,
leg. DOC removes one splinter, 12 inches long. SHAWN yells,
awakens.

MORGAN

Sip some 'o this, Shawn. As much as you can.

He dribbles whiskey into SHAWN'S mouth. SHAWN swallows, gags. DOC stares, slowly removes second splinter. SHAWN yells; passes out. DOC smiles.

DOC

Hope he stays out, awhile. Brian; heat another knife, so I can cauterize the wounds, after I remove everything.

BRIAN pulls his knife, removes glass on lighted lamp, heats knife. SHAWN is feverish. MORGAN feels brow.

Yeah. He's getting hot, Morgan.

It'll get worse, too. We just have to wait it out. We'll be in Galveston, tomorrow and get a real doctor, there.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN: EXT: GALVESTON DOCKS DAY

BRIAN and fifty year-old MAN, carries black bag, hurries up gangplank, onto Sea Lion deck. BRIAN walks quickly ahead, opens door to SHAWN'S cabin. They enter. MAN looks quickly at SHAWN, shakes head.

MORGAN

What do you think, Doc?

DOCTOR

I have to see if there's more splinters in him. The shock, the fever, the bleeding and the pain might well kill him. I can't promise a thing but, I'll do my best.

MORGAN

That's all we can ask, Doctor. Thanks for coming, so fast.

DOCTOR starts probing wounds. SHAWN perspires heavily, yells from pain, strains wildly. MORGAN, BRIAN hold him down.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT: SHAW'S CABIN DAY

DOCTOR looks at SHAWN, unconscious. MORGAN stands.

DOCTOR

You have enough morphine to get him
to Vera Cruz. Good luck with him.
Who are Gabrielle and Lila?

MORGAN, DOCTOR shake hands.

MORGAN

Thanks, Doctor. Gabrielle is a
beauty, he met, recently. I know
nothing of Lila.

Hands DOCTOR several coins. DOCTOR leaves. BRIAN enters.

BRIAN

How is he, Morgan?

MORGAN

The next few days will be critical.
I'll go tell the men.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

EXT: WAREHOUSE MORNING

GABRIELLE, upset, walks toward office; steps in pothole,
starts to fall. Tall, blond man, well-dressed, catches her.
GABRIELLE pulls away, sharply.

MAN

(Smiles) Please. I mean you no
harm.

GABRIELLE

I... I... I'm not watching where I'm
stepping. I'm just upset.

MAN

Calm down. You're safe, with me.

GABRIELLE looks intensely at man.

GABRIELLE

I believe that. Who are you?

MAN

I am Nathaniel Randall; at your service.

GABRIELLE

My name is Gabrielle Ducett. You're very kind, Mister Randall.

NATHANIEL

I'll escort you anywhere, you would like to go, Miss Ducett, including to the moon.

GABRIELLE

(Smiles) I'm not going that far.

NATHANIEL

I knew you have a beautiful smile. I had to see it.

GABRIELLE

I work there, at that office. (Points to warehouse) I have not seen you around Charleston. Are you new, here?

NATHANIEL

I come here on business five to six times, a year. I'll call you Gabrielle, if you'll call me Nathaniel. And I'll trade you.

NATHANIEL takes her hand, kisses it gently.

GABRIELLE

For what? (Laughs)

NATHANIEL

Let's skip the moon and I'll take you on my ship, for a cruise up the coast.

GABRIELLE

I just started my new job. My boss would not like my leaving him alone. Well, here it is.

NATHANIEL

I can't let you go, until I know where you live, so I may call on you. There is a beautiful ball, at the pavilion, in three days. Will you accompany me?

GABRIELLE

But, we just met.

GABRIELLE steps into doorway, turns, back against framing.

I wanted to introduce you to
someone, Nathaniel but, he's back
in the warehouse.

NATHANIEL glides into doorway, faces her, a foot apart. He slowly kisses her on lips, then deeply. GABRIELLE kisses him.

NATHANIEL

I just went to heaven, Miss Ducett.
Now, tell me your address.

GABRIELLE

My address is..... One hundred,
Gossamer Lane. A white house.

NATHANIEL

I shall be there at seven, this
Saturday.

He leaves. DUCETT appears.

DUCETT

Did you have a nice lunch?

GABRIELLE

I had a beautiful lunch and met a
beautiful man.

DUCETT

Shawn will return, fairly soon.
What about him?

GABRIELLE

You said to give several men a
chance; so, I am? (Smile)

DUCETT is upset; frowns; picks up stack of papers.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

INT: SEA LION SHAWN'S CABIN DAY

BRIAN watches SHAWN stand, shaky. He reaches to SHAWN.

SHAWN

Help me go on-deck. I need some
fresh air.

BRIAN takes left arm; they walk up steps onto deck. MORGAN at wheel, turns, sees them; smiles.

MORGAN

It's about time you stopped layin'
around. How are you feelin', Shawn?

SHAWN

The fever's about gone. I almost
feel like a new man. The sea air is
great.

MORGAN

While you were out of it, you kept
saying the name, "Lila Bennett".
Who is she?

SHAWN

She doesn't exist!

BRIAN, MORGAN, stare at SHAWN.

(Laughs) Maybe I'll explain, some
day.

SHAWN walks to railing; looks around.

MORGAN

We were able to get repair material
in Galveston. Everything should be
about back to normal, by Vera Cruz.

SHAWN

Give Sawyer a bottle of the good
stuff. He's the best carpenter.
Thanks for doing all you did. I'll
write the letters, about Jeffrey
and Wills for their families, later
today. That's always so hard; so
hard!

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT: PAVILION BALLROOM-CHARLESTON EVENING

NATHANIEL nods to several men, women, couples and they nod to
him, smile. NATHANIEL dances with GABRIELLE.

She wears light-yellow, velvet gown, matching slippers. Waltz ends. Dramatic, Spanish music plays.

NATHANIEL

I learned some of this dancing, in Havana. Are you game, to try it?

GABRIELLE

I learned a little, in Paris. I'll try but, don't laugh.

She backs away, drawing her arms, hands, low, in front, stomps feet, turns, stares sensually at NATHANIEL. He turns, walks to her, stomps heels, reaches with arms, hands in circle around her, does not touch. She spins in that encirclement, pushes against NATHANIEL'S chest, laughs, backs away, with repeated, tiny steps; bows. He bows. People applaud.

NATHANIEL

You are remarkable, Miss Ducett.
How beautifully you danced. Are you part gypsy?

GABRIELLE

You were elegant, yourself, sir.

NATHANIEL

Whom do I have to duel to capture your love?

GABRIELLE

Pistols or swords? Nathaniel; how do you know so many people here?

NATHANIEL

Many like to gamble, on ships. They combine a holiday trip, with gambling. If my ship wins and it usually does; I come here, buy what I need, from them and everyone's happy.

GABRIELLE

What a beautiful system you have!

NATHANIEL

Then, I have the money to go to a beautiful ball, with a lovely lady and then, I'm happy, too. (Laughs) I also carry special, expensive freight. It pays better. My ship has ten cannon to protect me against pirates.

GABRIELLE

I think you're a genius.

NATHANIEL

I hope I'm smart enough, to win
your heart. Are there demons,
haunting your soul, preventing
this?

GABRIELLE

Maybe. I'm not sure. I hope you
will continue to enrapture me.

NATHANIEL leads GABRIELLE to exterior patio, turns her to him, kisses her fully, deeply; GABRIELLE pushes into him.

NATHANIEL

I could pretend you are completely
mine but, I'd just be fooling
myself.

GABRIELLE

I could fall in love with you but,
that would be unfair, to you.

NATHANIEL

Now, you're playing, with my heart
and that is unfair. You are a
tantalizing witch.

GABRIELLE

(Angry) Don't ever call me a witch!
(Nathaniel freezes: She smiles)
Forgive me, Nathaniel. Someone
called me that, in a mean way.
You appeared, quite suddenly and
I'm just beginning to realize my
good fortune. If we're to be, we
will. (Smiles) I want to dance,
some more.

They enter dance floor, dance.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

EXT: GULF OF MEXICO- DECK SEA LION DAY

MORGAN at wheel, SHAWN, BRIAN, MORGAN watch Mount Orizaba,
rising 18,000 feet. SHAWN smiles; turns to MORGAN.

SHAWN

It's time, I take the wheel.

MORGAN

(Backs way; SHAWN takes wheel) It's all yours, Captain Beaudry. You are once again, in command. I wasn't sure I'd ever be able to say that, again.

BRIAN

With all that whiskey, we poured into you, I thought you'd stay drunk, for a month.

SHAWN

Bring the entire crew here.

Brian rings bell, 5 times. Forty-three men join them.

Normally, Vera Cruz is a friendly stop. It is very dangerous, this time. The Black Ship may have a sister ship, here in port or at sea, waiting for revenge, not to mention, pirating our goods.

Fifteen men will guard the ship at all times, sober and heavily armed. Anyone who disobeys, will be thrown off the ship and have to find their own way, home. While on shore, watch your backs, note and report any suspicious actions. That's all.

The men nod; disperse.

SHAWN

(To Morgan) I plan to see Angelica this evening. Care to come along?

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

EXT: VERA CRUZ STREET FROM WHARF LATE AFTERNOON

SHAWN, MORGAN look around.

MORGAN

I need a drink. Let's see what this joint is like.

They enter. Six MEXICANS drink and talk. One stops, looks at SHAWN.

SHAWN

Two beers. (Bartender slides two beers at them; SHAWN drops coins on bar)

MEXICAN #1

(Drunk) Hey, fancy gringos. What you do here?

MORGAN

We had a long trip and need a drink. (SHAWN, MORGAN drink)

MEXICAN#1

(Staggers to them) I dun't lake you. You too fancy for us, here.

(Looks at friends) I theenk we teach these Americanos a laysone.

He reaches for SHAWN. MORGAN breaks bottle on bar, waves jagged half at them.

MORGAN

Hold it there, or have your faces cut open.

SHAWN reaches for pistol, MEXICAN #2 jumps him. SHAWN knees him in groin, man doubles over. MEXICAN #3 grabs SHAWN, from behind, holds knife to throat.

MEXICAN #3

I theenk mebbe you drop bottle.

MORGAN drops bottle; SHAWN grabs arm with knife, twists, dumps MEXICAN #3 on floor. Pulls pistol. MEXICANS freeze.

MEXICAN #1

We not mean no harm, Senor. How 'bout, we buy you a dreenk?

SHAWN

We'll be leaving, now. Unless, you want to die. Back away!

MEXICANS back away. SHAWN, MORGAN leave; walk quickly; look back.

SHAWN

Any more bright ideas, Morgan?

MORGAN laughs; slaps SHAWN on back. SHAWN groans, grabs thigh.

MORGAN
Ooops! Sorry, about that.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

EXT: LARGE TWO-STORY SPANISH COLONIAL HOUSE EARLY EVENING

SHAWN, MORGAN cross veranda. Front door opens. SERVANT smiles.

SERVANT
Why, Mister Beaudry; Mister
Stewart. How nice, to see you both,
again. (Waves them inside; they
enter)

SHAWN
Hi, JAKE. It's nice to be back.

JAKE closes door. Heavy, green drapes, large chandeliers in two large, front rooms. Rear rooms have gaming tables. Beautiful women, wearing pretty dresses, lean on, talk to well-dressed men, drink. A beautiful woman, 35, descends winding staircase; smiles, walks to SHAWN, MORGAN, embraces SHAWN. SHAWN backs a foot away; smiles.

Ah, sweet ANGELICA; you are more
lovely, every time I see you.

ANGELICA
What have you two been up to?
(Looks at Shawn's hip) Oh, my God.
You're bleeding. Come with me.
Morgan; MICHELLE is out back.

MORGAN leaves room. ANGELICA guides SHAWN up stairs: they enter first bedroom. SHAWN undoes ANGELICA'S dress, drops it on floor; lowers her undergarments: kisses her mouth, neck shoulders, breasts; places her hands between his thighs.

ANGELICA
Shawn! I have to fix your wound.

SHAWN
It'll wait. I want you, now.

Naked, she walks to armoire, removes, dons short, light robe, goes to cabinet, gets bottle, bandages;

walks to SHAWN, hands him bottle of whiskey; He takes long swig. She slowly peels bloody bandage; pained face.

ANGELICA
Who did this to you?

SHAWN
Pirates. Don't tell anyone but, we sank the Black Ship.

ANGELICA
Oh, I won't. Barney's dead?

SHAWN
Probably. Don't know, for sure.

ANGELICA
Good- riddance to the whole, scummy bunch. Hold still.

She finishes wrapping, eases SHAWN down onto bed; climbs on him, sliding up until her thighs surround his head.

SHAWN
A heavenly sight, if I've ever seen one. An exotic feast.

ANGELICA
To accommodate your wounds, dessert first and then the main course.

She cups his head, draws it between her thighs.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT. ANGELICA'S BEDROOM MORNING

ANGELICA walks in; carries tray, sandwiches, fruit, bottle of brandy. Sets on bed. SHAWN opens eyes.

SHAWN
I need more of last night's main course, before our morning snacks.

ANGELICA
You'll get plenty. I'm actually love-starved. My girls have to have sex but, I don't. I've only had one man, since you left.

SHAWN

Was he better than me?

ANGELICA

I'll tell you, if you tell me who
you desire the most, back in
Charleston.

SHAWN

There is, was someone. Why didn't
you marry me, when I asked, years
ago and save me lots of grief.

ANGELICA

Because, I know how sailors are. A
woman in every port.

SHAWN

For you, I would be completely
faithful.

ANGELICA

(Face six inches from SHAWN'S face;
stares into his eyes) Are you being
completely honest?

SHAWN, ANGELICA smile, then laugh hysterically. She flops on
back, on bed; tears flow as they laugh.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT: DOWNSTAIRS ANGELICA'S HOUSE LATE AFTERNOON

ANGELICA, SHAWN descend staircase; stand at bottom, look
around.

MAN, 40, slender, dark brown hair, impeccable frock,
breeches, boots, sits at gaming poker table, large pile of
winnings in front of him. Dealer gives him one card.

MAN#1

I'll raise. Ten thousand.

Counts half his pile, shoves to middle.

#2 player throws his cards in.

#3 player, nervous, perspiring, hesitates, throws cards in.

MAN #4
I call.

Throws chips in middle.

MAN #1
You play well, sir but it is
impossible, to beat a royal flush.

MAN#1 lays hand down. Rakes money to him. He looks up, sees SHAWN, ANGELICA watching. His eyes fill with hate. Stares at SHAWN.

DEALER
Monsieur. Are you playing, or not?

MAN#1
(Glares, pause) That's up to this gentleman. I will give you one chance to retrieve some of your money, sir. Your luck is bound to change.

MAN #4
Yes. I would like that.

Dealer deals.

CUT TO:

SHAWN
That man, in brown. Do you know him?

ANGELICA
That's Pierre La Rush.

SHAWN
What do you know of him? Does he come here, often?

ANGELICA
Shawn; we are most discreet. Why do you ask?

SHAWN
He looked at me, as though he wanted to kill me and I wonder why.

ANGELICA
He comes here about six times a year.

SHAWN
Has he caused trouble?

ANGELICA
No, not at all. He's actually quite charming; not sinister, at all. He has favored CATHERINE, for about five years.

MORGAN, MICHELLE join SHAWN, ANGELICA. All walk to bar area in other room.

CUT TO:

GAMING TABLE LARGE PILE OF CHIPS IN MIDDLE
CATHERINE, 30, stands behind LA RUSH.

LA RUSH
I raise five thousand.

Throws chips in middle.

MAN #4
I call.

Man #4 lays down straight flush. La Rush bites lip, somber.

MAN #4
You were right, sir. Luck did change.

LA RUSH
You have bested me. I am through.
Until another time.

LA RUSH rises; CATHERINE kisses him on cheek. They walk to bar.

CUT TO:

OTHER ROOM.

MORGAN
Baby. Let's go upstairs and have some fun.

MORGAN, MICHELLE, go upstairs.

SHAWN

(To Angelica) Pardon me, a moment.
I have to talk to La Rush.

SHAWN walks to LA RUSH; smiles.

SHAWN

Monsieur; may I speak with you, a
moment?

LA RUSH

Certainly. (To Catherine) One
moment, my dear.

They walk aside.

SHAWN

You looked at me, earlier, as
though you knew me, sir. Have we
met, before?

LA RUSH

I was mistaken, Mister Beaudry.

SHAWN

How do you know my name?

LA RUSH

Catherine told me your name, a few
minutes ago.

CATHERINE looks at LA RUSH; LA RUSH glares at her; CATHERINE
reacts, quickly smiles.

Perhaps, Angelica and you would
join us, for a drink.

SHAWN

Tell me, sir, what is the nature of
your work?

LA RUSH

I am in a little of everything.

SHAWN

I assume, we both frequent here,
while our ships are loaded.

LA RUSH

Or, unloaded, if I had a ship. What
makes you think I have a ship?

SHAWN

Just a guess. Then, I was mistaken.

LA RUSH

Actually, you guessed right. We
have to be careful, do we not?

SHAWN

Have you ever docked in Charleston?

LA RUSH

No but, I well may, one of these
days. I hear, it's a charming town.

ANGELICA gestures to waiter; nods to corner table.

ANGELICA

Shawn; I invite all of you to join
me at my private table.

ANGELICA walks to table. SHAWN, LA RUSH, CATHERINE follow.
All sit.

LA RUSH

(Looks at Angelica) Do you mind, if
I smoke?

ANGELICA.

Not at all.

LA RUSH lights cheroot, inhales.

SHAWN

If you do come to Charleston;
please allow me to show you the
town.

LA RUSH

A most generous offer. If I turn
out to be a competitor, you will
know where I am, while in town.
(Smiles slyly)

SHAWN

I hadn't thought of that.

LA RUSH

But, in turn, I'll know where you
are. A stand-off, sir.

Both smile.

SHAWN

I'm going to try my luck at the
tables. I'm sure we'll meet again,
Mister La Rush. Angelica?

ANGELICA, SHAWN stand; walk to gambling table. From the corner of his eye, SHAWN sees LA RUSH glare evilly at him. SHAWN looks at ANGELICA. LA RUSH looks at CATHERINE.

LA RUSH

Let's go to your room and I'll show you again, what a real man can do to you.

CATHERINE

(Excited) I'm ready, Pierre.

PIERRE

(To Catherine) Get me a bottle of this damn stuff. Tonight, when you perform, I want to see a big improvement or you're in trouble.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

EXT: WHARF MORNING

Sea Lion crew is loading barrels, crates onto Sea Lion.

BRIAN

The night went well. All kinda sober, no problems.

MORGAN

The contraband is disguised, as well as we can.

SHAWN

Good. It's mostly, for Gabrielle.

Two well-dressed Mexicans, carrying packets of papers, approach them.

MAN #1

We are looking for Captain Shawn Beaudry. Do you know of him?

SHAWN

I am he. How may I help you?

MAN#1

My name is Rodriguez. This is Senor Lamina. We are customs inspectors.

SHAWN

(Smiles) You'll find everything, in order. Please; follow me.

MORGAN, BRIAN walk away quickly. Lift contraband chests, move behind neutral area, out of sight.

RODRIGUEZ, LAMINA, SHAWN walk to rear stairway; down to rear hold.

RODRIGUEZ

(Looks around) Very orderly. Makes our job so much easier. Our men are arriving now, to check the remaining cargo, still on the dock. We will tally the total, present you with the bill; then you will be free to proceed. You know the process.

SHAWN

Yes but, of course, I have never liked it.

RODRIGUEZ

(Smiles) Of course.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

EXT: WHARF LATER SAME DAY

RODRIGUEZ

Captain Beaudry; you have been most cooperative and I personally thank you, for your kind cooperation. And your payment. (Slight bow) May you have a safe voyage.

RODRIGUEZ, LAMINA stride away.

SHAWN

Thanks, for your quick thinking, with the chests.

MORGAN

Can't disappoint your beloved, back in Charleston. (They laugh)

Pounding horses hooves sound loud. Twelve armed, mounted Mexican soldiers stop at dock. All twelve draw pistols; six dismount; run to Shawn, Morgan, BRIAN.

SOLDIER #1
We are looking for a Captain Shawn Beaudry.

SHAWN
I am Captain Beaudry. What do you want?

SOLDIER #1
You will come with us.

MORGAN steps in front of SHAWN. SHAWN steps around MORGAN.

SHAWN?
What is this about?

SOLDIER #1
You have murdered one of our women. Or, shall I say; one of our whores, Catherine Armez. You will come with us or we will hang you here, along with some of your men.

SOLDIER #2
(Slams Shawn against barrel:
SHAWN'S head bleeds)
Now! (Ties SHAWN'S hands behind him)

SHAWN
I'll come with you. No need to threaten my men. This is all a big mistake.

SOLDIER #2
Silencio. Say nothing.

Two soldiers lift SHAWN; spread him across mane of a horse, all mount, leave, still point pistols at crew.

MORGAN
Unhitch the horse from that sled.
(Men do) Brian; you're in charge.
(Runs up gangplank, grabs pistol, runs down, mounts bareback, races away)

CUT TO:

EXT: ANGELICA'S HOUSE MINUTES LATER

MORGAN dismounts; runs to front door, opens, enters. Parlor, crowded with crying women, LA RUSH; ANGELICA greets MORGAN.

ANGELICA

Oh, Morgan. Catherine has been murdered. (They hug)

MORGAN

They've arrested Shawn, for her murder.

A well-dressed man, 50, enters, walks to center of room.

MAN

I am SALVADORE PATRONE; Chief Inspector. I am investigating the murder of one Catherine Armez, legal name, Maria Armez.

Looks directly at MORGAN.

What is your name?

MORGAN

Stewart; Morgan Stewart.

PATRONE

Did you know Miss Armez?

MORGAN

Aye. I knew the lass.

PATRONE

I see. Tell me, Mister Stewart; were you ever intimate, with Miss Armez?

MORGAN

No, sir. Never.

PATRONE

(Scratches neck) Didn't you find her attractive? (Pats pocket) It seems I left my pipe at home. Might I have one of your cigarettos?

MORGAN

I don't smoke.

PATRONE

You don't say. You're better off.
 Nasty habit. I try but, can't seem
 to quit. (Clears throat) Let me
 see, now. Where was I? Oh; my
 question was, "Didn't you find Miss
 Armez attractive?"

MORGAN

I found her attractive; a lovely
 lass. Why have you arrested SHAWN?

PATRONE

Please. Mister Stewart. I ask the
 questions. You answer them. Do you
 always find whores to be "nice
 ladies?"

MORGAN

Catherine was.

PATRONE

I see. Someone, evidently, didn't
 share your sentiments, Mister
 Stewart. We found Miss Armez' nude
 body, in an alley, close to this
 spot. (Raises his voice, fiercely;
 looks around room) Her skull was
 crushed, her throat cut, from ear
 to ear and she was three-months
 pregnant.

Women cry louder, shriek. MORGAN hugs ANGLICA.
 Mister Morgan: when did you see
 her, last?

MORGAN

Stewart, sir. Last night; here.

PATRONE

And what time was that? The time is
 very important.

MORGAN

I left at almost one and went
 directly, to the Sea Lion.

PATRONE

Tell me, Mister Stewart; do you
 have a pet sea lion?

LA RUSH laughs aloud. PATRONE spins, glares at LA RUSH.
 (MORE)

Quiet! Did I give you permission,
to laugh?

LA RUSH
I humbly apologize, Monsieur.

PATRONE
You will call me Inspector Patrone.
Is that clear?

LA RUSH
Yes, Inspector Patrone. Again, my
apologies.

LA RUSH removes handkerchief from pocket, wipes perspiring
brow. PATRONE turns to MORGAN.

PATRONE
We are investigating a brutal
murder. I see no humor in it. Don't
you agree, Mister Stewart?

STEWART
I agree, Inspector Patrone. Might I
ask you one question?

PATRONE
You have my permission.

MORGAN
Your men have taken Captain Shawn
Beaudry, sir. He did not murder
Catherine. He was here, all night.

PATRONE
You, there, Frenchie; do you have a
cigaretto and a light?

LA RUSH rushes to light PATRONE, with cheroot and match.
PATRONE takes cheroot, looks at it, bites off tip, puts in
mouth. LA RUSH lights cheroot: PATRONE watches end of
cheroot, suddenly stares into LA RUSH'S eyes. LA RUSH looks
away.

Why do you avoid my gaze, Mister La
Rush?

LA RUSH
I am very nervous and shocked,
about Catherine. I was with her
last night and when I awoke, she
was gone.

PATRONE
After your argument?

LA RUSH

There was no argument. Catherine
was always, shall we say,
cooperative.

PATRONE

How often do you visit Vera Cruz?

LA RUSH

Every few months. I always favor
Catherine. I can't believe she's
dead.

PATRONE

What, exactly is every few months?

LA RUSH

About six times a year.

PATRONE

So, you really mean every two
months. Why do you lie, Frenchie?

LA RUSH

(Perspires more) I... I... am too
upset to think straight, Inspector.

PATRONE

Inspector Patrone. (Glares at LA
RUSH) Did you tire of this sweet
whore?

LA RUSH

Enough to do what you said
happened? No!

PATRONE

Hmmm! Well, what we have here are a
bunch of sniffling whores, a French
dandy, (nods at La Rush) and an
angry sea-mate, anxious to protect
his captain. Whores, dressed in
fine gowns but, still whores. We
have the murder of one whore, who
likely crossed someone, within this
group. Something she knew or just a
maniac, relishing mutilating her
body. You will all remain here, in
town until I say you can leave. (to
Morgan) All ships are grounded.
Your captain will remain in our
jail, until he is cleared, or hung.
(MORE)

PATRONE (cont'd)

(to Angelica) You will bring me a list of all your girls and patrons, within the hour. I will be waiting.

PATRONE storms out door; soldiers follow.

MORGAN

Get rid of La Rush, so we can talk.

ANGELICA walks to LA RUSH, puts hand on arm.

ANGELICA.

Pierre; I'm closing for at least the rest of the week, in memory of Catherine.

LA RUSH

I understand. You know how fond I was of Catherine. Just last night, we were laughing and now she's gone. The bastard who did this, will surely hang.

LA RUSH walks to MORGAN.

MORGAN

What do you want, La Rush?

LA RUSH

It appears Captain Beaudry has gotten into serious trouble.

LA RUSH walks out door.

ANGELICA.

The killer is still loose. It was not Captain Beaudry. Stay together and be alert, at all times. We will all attend Catherine's funeral.

The girls disperse.

ANGELICA.

We need a drink, Morgan.

She goes to bar, pours two full glasses of brandy; hands one to MORGAN.

We need a plan. (They drink)

CUT TO:

INT: JAIL SAME TIME

SHAWN is thrown roughly into cell by JAILER. Two other JAILERS follow. JAILER #1 shoves SHAWN into wall. JAILER #2 kicks him in back. JAILER #3 punches him in face.

JAILER #1
How do you like it, Senor?

JAILER #2
You like to kill the ladies, huh?

SHAWN
I killed no-one. Where's Inspector Patrone?

JAILER #1
Maybe, we just hang you, now!

Takes short piece of rope; puts around neck, tightens it, drags SHAWN across cell. PATRONE appears, strides into cell.

PATRONE
What the hell are you doing? Are you crazy? (Pulls pistol) Touch him again and I'll shoot you dead. Comprende? (Points to JAILER #1) You! Get him onto the cot. (Points to JAILER #2) You! Get bandages and water. Cut him loose!

JAILER #1 cuts hands loose, removes noose. JAILER #2 returns with water and bandages.

Now, get out, before I kill you.

SHAWN
Salvador. I didn't kill Catherine.

PATRONE
I know, Shawn. We found one of your cuff-links by Catherine's body. My aide told everyone. I had you arrested, so a mob wouldn't hang you and destroy your ship; maybe kill your men. The jailers didn't know. They thought you guilty.

SHAWN
What, now? What about my ship and crew?

PATRONE

I'll figure out what to do, in the next few hours. I want the killer to think he's safe.

SHAWN

How about me being safe? They tried to hang me.

PATRONE

I asked my friend, Rodriguez, to guard you, while I'm elsewhere.

SHAWN

The customs inspector.

PATRONE

Yes. Here he is, now. (To JAILER #1) Get out. (JAILER #1 leaves)

RODRIGUEZ enters.

RODRIGUEZ

What happened to him?

PATRONE

The jailers almost hanged him. Bandage him and clean him up. Watch him, carefully. I have to go see how his cuff-link was conveniently left at the scene and solve a murder.

PATRONE leaves. RODRIGUEZ removes coat, washes SHAWN.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT: ANGELICA'S HOUSE EARLY EVENING

MORGAN, ANGELICA sit alone in front room. Bell rings. MORGAN answers. PATRONE enters. He walks to ANGELICA; stands, smiles.

PATRONE

Shawn was beaten a little, by the jailers, assuming he is guilty.

MORGAN

I swear, Inspector.....

PATRONE

(Smiles) Please; save your breath.
I knew Captain Beaudry did not
murder her. I jailed him to protect
him from a vigilante mob plus maybe
his ship and crew, being in danger.

ANGELICA

What happens, now?

MORGAN

He doesn't seem to be safe, there,
either.

PATRONE

I must be devious and smart or I
might get hung, too.

MORGAN

Is this dangerous, for you?

ANGELICA.

I'm so afraid, for all of you.

PATRONE

At two o'clock, in the morning, I
will bring two horses; unlock the
side door, to the jail, unlock the
cell, ease Shawn outside, lock the
door. I'll give him a sombrero and
shawl, to wear; we will go to the
wharf, you, Morgan will have the
ship in enough sail, ready to go.
You will stay in the center of the
bay. The moon will be bright, so
you should be safe as you leave.

ANGELICA.

Is there no other way?

MORGAN

This is too risky, Inspector. One
drunk, one guard, walking back to
check and all of us might be hung.

PATRONE

If it appears to be impossible, I
will send Miss Angelica to warn
you.

PATRONE walks out front door.

ANGELICA.
I don't know what we should do.

MORGAN
It's bad, no matter what.

MORGAN hugs ANGELICA; look worried.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

EXT: SIDE OF JAIL MIDNIGHT

PATRONE walks near jail.

PATRONE
(Talks aloud, low) Two more hours.
This is the longest night of my
life.

PATRONE ties two horses to small tree, leans against wall of adjoining building. He sees shadows, in the moonlight; six men move to side of jail; quietly pry door open. They enter. PATRONE runs to front of jail, enters. He whispers to 2 guards.

PATRONE
We have six men, back there, trying
to kill Captain Beaudry. Follow me.

He moves quietly toward rear cells. They pull pistols, follow. PATRONE opens rear door. All three line up.

PATRONE
If you move one inch; we will kill
all of you.

One man turns, aims pistol, PATRONE and one soldier shoot, kill him. The other five drop their pistols, knives.

Put them in the far cell, away from
Captain Beaudry. We'll handle them,
in the morning. In fact, I will
take Captain Beaudry, with me, in
my custody; then he'll be safe.

JAILER #1
Inspector Patrone; how did you
know?

PATRONE
I had my suspicions. Call it a hunch.

PATRONE walks SHAWN out front door, leans against jail wall, smiles; wipes his brow, exhales. He mounts horse; hands sombrero, shawl to SHAWN; SHAWN dons, mounts other horse; both ride away.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT: DUCETT'S OFFICE NOON

GABRIELLE
Where have you gone, Shawn?
Have you forgotten all about me?
Thank god for Nathaniel. What would I do, without him?

GABRIELLE looks sad. DUCETT enters.

DUCETT
Are you going with Nathaniel, again? Why do you torment him, while you wait for Shawn?

GABRIELLE
He knows I love Shawn.

DUCETT
He knows of Shawn?

GABRIELLE
Not by name; just that there's someone.

DUCETT
Tell him who it is.

GABRIELLE
It won't mean anything to him.
Shawn is off somewhere, with another woman. Nathaniel is always here, when I need him.

DUCETT
Shawn, Morgan and I have an arrangement, involving too much money for them to not perform.

GABRIELLE

Unless they are pirates and have
stolen all our merchandise and
crops.

DUCETT

Something is very wrong, or they'd
be back, by now.

GABRIELLE

Do you think they're dead, Papa?

DUCETT

Not unless their ship is sunk.

GABRIELLE cries. DUCETT holds her.
I shouldn't have said that. I'm
sorry.

GABRIELLE

He's probably seeing women, all the
way to Mexico and back.

DUCETT

Well; you'd rather argue, when he's
here. A man needs some peace. Your
mother and I rarely argued and even
then, it was always civil.

NATHANIEL enters office.

NATHANIEL

Hello, Mister Ducett. Gabrielle, my
love; are you ready, for our
picnic?

DUCETT

That sounds like a nice outing.
Have fun.

GABRIELLE

Yes, Nathaniel. I'm ready.

NATHANIEL

Then. Let's go!

NATHANIEL, GABRIELLE leave. DUCETT looks worried.

CUT TO:

EXT: SECLUDED SPOT AT END OF PARK EARLY AFTERNOON

NATHANIEL

This looks like a great spot.

GABRIELLE

(Laughs) It certainly does. I always wanted to make love, in a public rendezvous. This is exciting and daring!

NATHANIEL

(Helps her exit carriage)

HESTOR; you may wander down the lane, see the ducks and the lake, for an hour. We'll meet you there.

HESTOR nods, carriage rolls away. NATHANIEL carries large picnic basket to hidden spot; spreads cover, opens bottle of champagne, fills two glasses, hands one to GABRIELLE.

GABRIELLE

I want to toast you, Nathaniel, for being the most wonderful suitor and the most patient.

NATHANIEL

This seems to be the best moment and place to fulfill our desires, even if your thoughts should be with another.

He lifts, removes GABRIELLE'S blouse, then her skirt, then her bodice. He removes his coat, shirt, breeches. They stand, naked, staring up and down, at each other. GABRIELLE rushes into him, kisses him full on the mouth. He smiles, caresses her, all over, kisses her breasts, neck, arms, navel; eases her onto cover on back. She reaches with arms, pulls him to her.

YOUNG MAN (V.O.)

Look what we found, fellows.

GABRIELLE, NATHANIEL, look, see three young men, watching them. NATHANIEL kneels, covers GABRIELLE with cover.

YOUNG MAN #2

Fellows; let's help him, with her. I'll bet she can handle all three of us. Let's see!

They start to lower breeches. NATHANIEL rolls over, reaches into basket, removes pistol, cocks it.

NATHANIEL
I'll bet my pistol can kill all
three of you. Let's see!

YOUNG MAN#1
Whoa, Mister. We were just teasing.
Can't you take a joke?

They pull breeches up, hurry away, looking back, at pistol.

GABRIELLE
(Lies back, laughs) They were so
surprised. They really thought
you'd shoot them.

NATHANIEL
(Still naked) They were one second
from dying. They ruined our mood,
our moment, my love. I'll retrieve
Hestor. (Stands, turns to walk)

GABRIELLE
He'll be a bit shocked, if you
chase him, naked.

NATHANIEL looks down, laughs.

NATHANIEL
I don't know what I'm doing,
anymore. (Starts dressing)

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

EXT: WHARF LATER SAME DAY

NATHANIEL looks at warehouse office. Sign says "SOUTHERN
SHIPPING". He enters. 40 year-old man is at desk, alone.

NATHANIEL
Hello, MICHAEL. How are you?

MICHAEL stands, smiles; they shake hands.

MICHAEL
Nate! It's good to see you again.
What brings you to Charleston?

NATHANIEL

I came to see and buy, on my usual routine but, this trip turned out to be special.

MICHAEL

That means a woman. Are you married or engaged or anything?

NATHANIEL

(Smiles) I'm trying to be all of that but; I'm having trouble.

MICHAEL

You're a very nice person. What's your problem?

NATHANIEL

I met a woman. She stole my heart. I need her desperately. She loves another. That's it.

MICHAEL

Who is he? Do you want me to "Shanghai" him to Tibet?

NATHANIEL

Thanks for the thought. I don't know who he is. Just that he's probably a ship's captain or first mate, whatever and he left port about a month ago.

MICHAEL

Normally, this information is not readily available but, you are distressed and need help. Let me see.

He lifts a heavy ledger from under the desk, places on counter, opens, flips pages.

Let's see. A month ago. So much activity. This might be impossible. Any destination?

NATHANIEL

Nothing.

MICHAEL

Weather. Pirates. So many elements make it hard to figure anything. The Laurelton left a month ago, for New Orleans; Captain Wallace;
(MORE)

MICHAEL(cont'd)

First Mate; Donaldson. The Phantom;
left for Havana. Captain Brandt;
First Mate; Gomez. The Sandcastle
left for Galveston; Captain
Mendell; First Mate; Bussy. How am
I doing?

NATHANIEL

This is hopeless. Thanks for
trying. (Turns to leave)

MICHAEL

The Sea Lion left for Vera Cruz.
Captain.....

NATHANIEL

(Interrupts) Beaudry; First Mate;
Stewart. (Stares, gets pale)

MICHAEL

Nate; are you alright?

NATHANIEL

I'm fine. I'll keep those names in
mind; and thanks.

NATHANIEL exits office; stands outside, puts hands over face.
Shawn?; Morgan?; maybe, neither.
What a mess! Do I even want to
know?

CUT TO:

EXT: SEA LION DECK DAY

SHAWN, MORGAN, walk deck by BRIAN at wheel.

BRIAN

Six days and no problems; no
pirates, no storms. I still can't
believe, we're all alive.

MORGAN

And headin' home.

SHAWN

If it stays this way, we'll be in
Charleston soon and I'll be asking
Gabrielle to marry me.

BRIAN

Does she have a sister?

MORGAN

Oooh. We'll have ta get a hold of
Nate and invite him.

SHAWN

He'll be so excited. Do you mind if
he's my best man; Morgan?

MORGAN

Not at all. When, we were all
growin' up, together, in Virginia,
we kinda had this, in mind.

(Smiles)

SHAWN

Yeah! This will be the best
homecoming, ever. I wish I could
invite Salvador.

MORGAN

Do you think La Rush killed
Catherine?

SHAWN

I don't know. He was fine, with
her, that night. He looked like he
wanted to kill me but, not her.

MORGAN

He's a slippery one. I'm keeping my
eye out, for him.

SHAWN

Good idea. There's something about
him, that's just not right.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

EXT: DOCKS EARLY EVENING

NATHANIEL, GABRIELLE ride in buggy.

GABRIELLE

You're being mysterious, Nathaniel.

NATHANIEL

On purpose. I've waited for a long
time, to show you something
beautiful and special.

GABRIELLE

I can't imagine, what it might be.

NATHANIEL

You are not my only love,
Gabrielle. Alas; another shares my
heart.

GABRIELLE

I've heard of risque women in this
part of town. Especially in the
wharf area. Is that what you mean?

They stop by large schooner. On side of bow "SILVER HAWK".
NATHANIEL exits, helps GABRIELLE exit. They look at ship.

NATHANIEL

This, my love, is the "Silver
Hawk".

GABRIELLE

Is this your ship?

NATHANIEL

It surely is. How do you like it?

GABRIELLE

It is so beautiful. Just lovely.
What a dashing name.

NATHANIEL

I want you to see it.

GABRIELLE

Oh, Nathaniel! Please hurry and
take me aboard!

NATHANIEL

Watch your step. There's rungs on
the ramp.

GABRIELLE hurries up ramp, excited. NATHANIEL takes her arm,
helps her step onto ship. She stops; looks around. Three
sailors, cabin boy, smile, nod to them.

Men; relax in the rear cabin, for
awhile. RAYMOND will call you.
Jason; this is Miss Ducett.

JASON

I...I...I'm ppleased tttto mmmeet
yyou.

GABRIELLE

(Takes Jason's hand) It's nice to
meet you too, Jason.

NATHANIEL

Jason is our new cabin-boy.

JASON

Yyyyyou're ppppretty!

NATHANIEL

(Frowns) Uh oh! Another suitor. I'm
in trouble.

GABRIELLE

(Laughs) And you are very handsome,
Jason.

JASON beams. NATHANIEL takes GABRIELLE'S arm, leads her
forward. The men, Jason walk to rear.

NATHANIEL

His stuttering is quite bad so, I
have him read Keats to me to
overcome it.

GABRIELLE

What a wonderful idea. (Looks
around) Your ship is exquisite.

NATHANIEL leads her to bow area. They look back at cabin. He
leads her down steps, into passenger quarters.

Everything is so shiny, like new.

NATHANIEL

I take great pains to keep it this
way.

He leads her up steps, into large, main cabin area.

GABRIELLE

Oh, Nathaniel. How beautifully, you
have appointed your cabin. Did a
woman assist you?

NATHANIEL

Yes. A beautiful woman, with
exquisite taste.

GABRIELLE

Do you still see her?

NATHANIEL
Occasionally. She's a great artist.

GABRIELLE
I'm not great at anything. My father resisted my becoming a professional dancer. He was afraid of the unknown elements.

Large candle lit, center of small table. Young man, waiter attire, enters, with brandy bottle, two glasses. They sit; he pours.

NATHANIEL
This is RAYMOND. (Raymond nods to her)

GABRIELLE
Hello, Raymond.

Three musicians, with violins, enter, two play, center one sings:

LOVE IS THE EVENING STAR

THE CRESCENT MOON THE MYSTIC NIGHT

LOVE IS A RENDEZVOUS

AND HOLDING HANDS BY CANDLELIGHT

(Nathaniel, Gabrielle hold hands)

AND IT ALWAYS SEEMS LOVE INSPIRES YOUR DREAMS

MAKING ALL THE WORLD A WONDROUS SIGHT

LOVE IS A SWEET PERFUME

ENCHANTING AS YOU FEEL IT START

A SACRED PASSION YOU SHOULD ALWAYS

TREASURE IN YOUR HEART

MAGIC'S ALL AROUND PARADISE YOU'VE FOUND

THIS EARTH IS HEAVEN WHEN YOU KNOW LOVE

GABRIELLE, NATHANIEL look at musicians, each other. Vocal ends. Musicians retreat to adjoining area out of sight: continue playing instrumental, same song.

NATHANIEL

I surely hope my lady is very hungry.

GABRIELLE

Oh, I am. I'm famished; plus the brandy makes me more so.

NATHANIEL

Excellent. I'd be broken-hearted, if you weren't. (They smile)

CUT TO:

EXT: SEA LION DECK. ENTERING HARBOR ONE HOUR LATER

SHAWN, at helm, MORGAN beside him.

MORGAN

Ah; Charleston is a pretty sight, my friend. Home, at last. And not a moment too soon, I think.

SHAWN

Aye. It is good, to be back.

The Sea Lion veers right, allows view of ships, docked in a row.

I'll be damned! There's Nate's ship. What a nice surprise, eh Morgan? Shall we take a moment and give him a greeting?

MORGAN

Aye! Be good to see Nate again. Why don't you go ahead? I'll change and join you right away.

SHAWN

That, I will. I wonder how long he's been in port. Damn, if I haven't missed him.

As the Sea Lion passes the Silver Hawk, music floats over the water.

Sounds like he's celebrating something.

MORGAN

You don't think he's up and married, without waiting for us to take part, do you?

SHAWN

No, not Nate!

CUT TO:

EXT: WHARF A SHORT TIME LATER

SHAWN walks up ramp to Silver Hawk, reaches deck, stops; looks around deck, sees no-one.

SHAWN

(Aloud) Maybe I'd better wait.
(Pause) Still, I can always bow out, fast.

SHAWN opens door, steps inside. Six candles glow. He sees a man and woman dancing together, nude.

GABRIELLE

I am yours, tonight, Nathaniel.

NATHANIEL

Our hearts will be as one, sweet Gabrielle.

SHAWN freezes, leans against wall, for one second, yells and lunges at NATHANIEL, knocking GABRIELLE aside.

SHAWN

Ahhh! You bastards; both of you. You dirty, evil bastards! (To Gabrielle) You whore! I came home to ask you to marry me. I came home, for this?

He punches NATHANIEL in the face, chest, grabs him by throat, with both hands, pushes him against wall.

GABRIELLE

(Screams) Noooo! Don't! Please stop.

NATHANIEL

(Blocks some punches) Stop, Shawn. What the hell, are you doing?

GABRIELLE
He didn't know, Shawn. Stop.

GABRIELLE cries, hysterically. SHAWN punches NATHANIEL left, right, left, right, then viciously right, right. NATHANIEL starts to slide, unconscious to floor. SHAWN cocks fist again. MORGAN appears behind him, hits SHAWN very hard on back of head; SHAWN falls, unconscious. MORGAN removes his frock-coat, drapes it around GABRIELLE.

GABRIELLE
You don't understand!

MORGAN
I think, I do! Put your dress on, fast. Take my buggy home. Get out of here. I'll take care of them.

GABRIELLE runs into side room, dons dress, runs out door, down ramp, into buggy. RAYMOND appears.

RAYMOND
How may I help, sir?

MORGAN
Help me lay him, on the settee.
(They do) Watch him, while I run to Molly's and fetch the doctor.

MORGAN runs out, down ramp, runs to MOLLY'S; enters.

MOLLY
Morgan; what's wrong?

MORGAN
My brother has been beaten, fiercely. Send the doctor, as fast as you can, to the Silver Hawk.

MORGAN runs back to Silver Hawk. MOLLY runs out door.

CUT TO:

INT: SILVER HAWK MAIN CABIN SHORT TIME LATER

MAN, carrying bag, enters. Sets bag down. Looks closely, shocked.

MORGAN
(Crying) Thanks for coming, so fast, Doctor. He's my brother.

DOCTOR

What maniac did this, Morgan. You'd better call the constable. This man might die.

MORGAN

What can you do, right now?

DOCTOR

There's not much I can do. I'll check for broken bones but, I'm more concerned, about brain damage, hemorrhage, maybe a broken neck or back. You...(Looks at RAYMOND)

RAYMOND

Raymond, Doctor.

DOCTOR

Help Morgan carry him into the bedroom. Try to carry him as flatly as possible. I'll support his head.

MORGAN and RAYMOND gently lift NATHANIEL from the sides. DOCTOR lifts head, carries in straight position, lay NATHANIEL on bed. RAYMOND is in shock, frozen. DOCTOR grips RAYMOND'S arm.

He's young and strong, Raymond. He has a lot in his favor. Bring two basins of water and a dozen small towels. And a light cover.

RAYMOND goes; DOCTOR turns to MORGAN.

I didn't know you have a brother.
I'm so sorry. This is so tragic.

MORGAN

(Tears flowing freely) Our big homecoming from Vera Cruz is a disaster. Oh, Doc. Don't let him die!

RAYMOND sets basins, cloths on table. Lays cover at end of bed.

MORGAN

Raymond; While the doctor's here, will you help me transport Shawn to his ship? It's close.

RAYMOND, MORGAN lift SHAWN; leave cabin.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

INT: SHAWN'S CABIN DAY

SHAWN sits, head in hands, as MORGAN enters cabin.

SHAWN
How is Nate?

MORGAN
He's in bad shape, Shawn. Was it
worth it, goin' crazy, like that?

SHAWN
I just reacted to them, being naked
and talking about consuming each
other.

MORGAN
You could have called them every
filthy thought in your head and
left.

SHAWN
Well, I didn't and now, Nate's
really hurt and I did it.

MORGAN
What did they say when you walked
in.

SHAWN
Nate asked what the hell was I
doing and Gabrielle said Nate
didn't know. I think she lied, to
protect him.

MORGAN
That's convenient, for you. Did he
fight back?

SHAWN
No; not really. (Looks away, sad)

MORGAN
I love you as much as I love Nate.
We're closer than any three real
brothers could be.
(MORE)

MORGAN(cont'd)

But, if Nate dies, Shawn; You're no longer my brother.

SHAWN

I need to see Nate, Morgan. I have to tell him he's more important to me than Gabrielle.

MORGAN

Well, you can't. He's still in shock and seeing you, for any reason, might kill him. I'll take some of my things and stay with Nate, until we see if he lives.

SHAWN

I don't know where to start doing whatever I have to do, Morgan.

MORGAN

I feel I'm the one who should tell Mister Ducett. He has to know.

SHAWN

I deserve his wrath but, thanks. I'll have Brian fill in for you.

MORGAN leaves. SHAWN cries, pounds on wall, hard.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

EXT: DUCETT'S WAREHOUSE NOON

MORGAN rides horse to warehouse front door. He dismounts quickly, enters office. MAN stands behind counter.

MORGAN

ANDY! Where's Mister Ducett?

ANDY

He sent a messenger that Miss Gabrielle has a high fever and he won't be in, today.

MORGAN turns, pounds wall.

MORGAN

Dammit! What else can happen?

MORGAN turns, exits, mounts, races away.

CUT TO:

EXT: DUCETT HOUSE A SHORT TIME LATER

MORGAN dismounts, strides quickly to door; rings bell. AGNES opens door.

MORGAN

Hello, Agnes. I'd like to speak to
Mister Ducett, if it's possible.

AGNES

I'll tell him, Mister Stewart.
Please come in.

MORGAN enters, removes hat, waits nervously. DUCETT walks to MORGAN, extends hand. They shake.

DUCETT

Let's go to my study, Morgan.
Agnes; bring us a bottle of brandy.

AGNES

I put a brand-new bottle in there,
this morning.

DUCETT

Bring another one... now!

AGNES hurries away. They enter study. DUCETT pours two half-full glasses of brandy; hands one to MORGAN; they drink.

Please sit; make yourself
comfortable.

They sit, facing each other in overstuffed chairs.
I'm glad you came, Morgan.

MORGAN

I had to, sir. Everything's a mess
and it's important that you know
what's happening. How is Gabrielle?

DUCETT

Last night, Gabrielle came home,
hysterical, crying harder than I've
ever seen her cry. It broke my
heart. She said Shawn was suddenly
there, fought with Nathaniel and
yelled obscenities at them.

MORGAN

You'll need the other bottle of
brandy, sir.

AGNES walks in, carries two bottles of brandy.

AGNES

Just in case; I brought extra.

AGNES leaves.

DUCETT

She's upstairs, with a very high
fever and sweats. The doctor is
with her.

MORGAN

I'm sorry to hear that, sir. I'm
not quite sure, where to begin.

DUCETT

Take your time, son. We have three
bottles, now. (They smile)

MORGAN

Nathaniel is my brother, my step-
brother.

DUCETT

What? I can't believe this.

MORGAN

Shawn is like a brother to Nate and
I. We all grew up together, in
Virginia.

DUCETT

My god! Go on!

MORGAN

On our trip, Shawn collected some
contraband and hid it from the
customs officers. They were his
special presents for Gabrielle as
wedding gifts.

DUCETT stands, teary-eyed, walks around, shakes head.
On the last stretch to Galveston,
we were attacked by Barney and his
Black Ship.

DUCETT

What happened?

MORGAN

We sank her, sir. We had some damage, lost Jeffrey and Wills. Shawn was badly hurt; his face and his right hip ripped up by many very long splinters. Infection, high fever, loss of blood; a mess.

DUCETT

And I thought you had a peaceful voyage.

MORGAN

Sir; that was the good part.

DUCETT

I'd better sit down.

MORGAN

Good idea, Mister Ducett. (Ducett sits) Shawn visited Angelica, an old friend in Vera Cruz. She owns a brothel.

DUCETT

Wait a minute, Morgan.

DUCETT'S, MORGAN'S glasses empty. DUCETT stands, deliberately fills them to top.

(Sits, takes deep breath) Proceed, sir.

MORGAN

A Frenchman, Pierre La Rush, favored one of Angelica's girls, named Catherine. He stared at Shawn as though he wanted to kill him.

DUCETT

Did he try to kill Shawn?

MORGAN

No, sir. That night, Catherine was murdered; actually butchered. Her throat cut, her nude body sliced-up and thrown in an alley.

DUCETT

How awful! Did La Rush do it?

MORGAN

Possibly. Inspector Patrone found one of Shawn's cuff-links by the body.

DUCETT

This is incredible. So, he thought Shawn did it?

MORGAN

He arrested Shawn and put him in jail. The jailers thought he did it and beat him severely. The locals tried to hang him; came close.

DUCETT

Horrible! Just horrible. But, you're here. How?

MORGAN

Patrone has known Shawn for many years and knew he didn't do it. He arrested Shawn for his own protection and to let the killer think he was safe.

DUCETT

(Raises eyebrows, shakes head)
You're not drinking enough, son.
Keep up with me. Go on.

MORGAN downs the rest; DUCETT stands, fills them.

MORGAN

After the hanging try, Patrone smuggled Shawn from the jail to the Sea Lion and we hightailed it out of there.

DUCETT

(Pause) So, when Shawn came home, thinking of marrying Gabrielle, he walks in on her and Nathaniel, in a romantic setting and felt betrayed.

MORGAN

There's one more thing, sir. You might as well know. (pause) They were naked.

DUCETT is stunned. MORGAN walks to him, puts hands on DUCETT'S shoulders, stares into DUCETT'S eyes.

I told Shawn he was wrong;

(MORE)

that he should have called them everything he could think of and walked out.

DUCETT

But, Morgan, if it were you; what would you have done? Tell me the truth.

MORGAN

I know what you mean. I don't really know what I'd have done.

DUCETT

You were gone so much longer than expected. Gabrielle loves only Shawn but, Nathaniel loves her the same way. It's all tangled.

MORGAN

Maybe, she gave up on Shawn. Nate is the nicest, kindest man I've ever known. And a pure romantic.

They hug each other for a moment.

DUCETT

I thank you with my whole heart, Morgan, for telling me all this. Had I gotten it in pieces, I'd have gone mad.

MORGAN

I must be going, Mister Ducett. I've moved in with Nate, to make sure he gets whatever treatment he needs.

DUCETT

If I had insisted on Gabrielle at least telling Nathaniel Shawn's name....

MORGAN

I'd like to call on Gabrielle, when she is better.

DUCETT

When she is better, I'll tell her all you've told me; (Smiles) well, most of it, anyway.

MORGAN

I won't be with Shawn on the run to Havana, sir. Brian is most capable and will cover for me.

DUCETT

Of course. I'll send my personal physician, to administer to Nathaniel. I'll send him, today.

MORGAN

Thank you, sir. That might make the difference. Good-bye.

MORGAN turns to leave.

DUCETT

Take this with you, Morgan.

Hands MORGAN the third, unopened bottle of brandy. MORGAN takes bottle, grins, leaves room. DUCETT inhales, exhales, looks after MORGAN, turns, walks quickly up stairs, enters GABRIELLE'S bedroom. Doctor, nurse attend GABRIELLE.

DUCETT

How is she, HENRY? Any better?

HENRY (DOCTOR)

(Moves head slightly, side to side)
Mary will stay with Gabrielle, night and day, until the fever breaks. I'll be here first thing in the morning and at the end of the day.

DUCETT

I want you to do me a personal favor, Henry.

HENRY (DOCTOR)

Of course, Dan. What is it?

DUCETT

There's a young man, Nathaniel Randall, who's been courting Gabrielle. He is on his ship; the Silver Hawk, at the wharf. He was assaulted, viciously, last night and is at risk of dying. I want you to attend him as closely as if he were my own son and do everything in your power to save him. Whatever it takes; whatever it costs.

HENRY (DOCTOR)
I will go there, immediately, Dan
and keep you informed of his
condition.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

INT: DUCETT'S OFFICE NOON

DUCETT behind counter. SHAWN enters.

DUCETT

Walks quickly around counter. They shake hands.
Morgan told me everything; from the
three of you being like brothers;
the Black Ship; Vera Cruz; the
whole mess. I'm just glad you're
all still alive.

SHAWN

I beat Nate, fiercely, Mister
Ducett and I can never forgive
myself, for that.

DUCETT

I sent my personal physician to
treat Nathaniel. Gabrielle has a
high fever, and is in great
distress. I only came now, to
express my sorrow at all that has
happened to all of you and give you
the papers for the Havana trip.

SHAWN

I'm so sorry about Gabrielle, sir.
Morgan feels it's too risky, for
Nate to see me, now and I agree.
The Havana trip is short and I'll
be back quickly. Brian will cover
for Morgan. He's the best.

DUCETT

I haven't really thanked you and
your crew, for doing so well,
ridding the seas of the Black Ship.

SHAWN

There may be a sister-ship still
out there, lurking, looking for
revenge. We are watchful, sir.

DUCETT hands packet of papers to SHAWN, squeezes his shoulder. SHAWN turns, exits room.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

EXT: SEA LION DECK. MORNING

BRIAN at wheel. SHAWN drinks coffee.

SHAWN

I told you the part about Nate,
falling in love, with Gabrielle. He
didn't know about me and I almost
killed him.

BRIAN

You didn't know, that he didn't
know. Be glad you didn't have a gun
and shoot him. He'll get over it.
You will, too.

SHAWN

I don't know, Brian. Morgan said,
if Nate dies, we're no longer
brothers. If that happens, I might
as well be dead. I'll be the
loneliest person, on earth.

BRIAN

First of all, you say he's got two
great doctors, treatin' him.
They'll pull'im through. We go to
Havana, unload, bring back rum,
cigars and whatever else sells and
makes money, for Mister Ducett.

SHAWN

I don't give a damn about all that.

BRIAN

I know you don't but, by the time
we return to Charleston, Nate and
Miss Ducett will be on the mend and
everything will look much brighter.

(MORE)

BRIAN(cont'd)

I'd be proud to have you as MY
brother.

BRIAN, big smile, SHAWN, weak smile; BRIAN looks away,
worried.

CUT TO:

EXT: SEA LION DECK. EARLY EVENING

SHAWN at wheel. BRIAN hands Shawn coffee.

SHAWN

Thanks, Brian. This'll be a breeze,
after Vera Cruz.

BRIAN

Aye. It will, Cap'n. It's been a
year, since we hit Havana. The
girls, the music. They drive me
crazy.

SHAWN

We'll have the one evening until
midnight, for all that. At
midnight, I want them all back on-
board, drunk or sober.

BRIAN

I'll keep tabs on them; keep 'em
all together, as best I can.

LOOKOUT calls down.

LOOKOUT

Ship comin' hard, from the
northwest. Don't see their flag,
yet.

SHAWN looks through telescope; BRIAN grabs wheel.

SHAWN

Stay the course!

BRIAN

But, southeast would distance us.

SHAWN

We'd end up too far off course,
with no chance of help.

SHAWN takes wheel.

We don't know their intentions.

(MORE)

They're on course for Havana
harbor, too. We have to let them
get closer than I like, to do what
I have in mind but, no choice.
Cannons ready! Marksmen to the bow!

BRIAN

(Calls) Cannons ready to fire!
Marksmen to the bow!

Thirty-six sailors run to twelve cannon. Six sailors carry
rifles and boxes of ammunition to bow, set up in protected
positions, aim rifles forward. Four sailors man two pivot
guns.

HANSON

Aye, Brian. We'll be ready in three
minutes.

BRIAN

What do ya have in mind, sir?

SHAWN

Five years ago, I had to dive, for
cover, in a cove just east of the
harbor. I was able to circle around
a tiny island and be completely
hidden. After escaping, I realized
I could have continued, gone behind
the enemy and blown him out of the
water. Looks like our best bet.

BRIAN

And if he follows us, he'll
announce he's after us.

SHAWN

(Grins) Right! But, we won't know,
'till we come out the other side.
We'll be right on top of him. If we
don't time it perfectly, we'll be
staring into their guns. Starboard
guns, ready.

BRIAN

(Yells) Starboard guns, ready.

SHAWN

If we see they're manning their
guns, fire until they sink.

BRIAN runs, tells gunners, runs back to SHAWN.

SHAWN steers angle slightly left, enters cove, straightens, after one minute, spins wheel, hard-right, cruises behind small island; veers right; follows shoreline. The Sea Lion's hull rubs heavily on a reef; ship staggers, releases, continues freely, emerges into main channel, eighty yards in arrears; sees pirate flag; name "RAVEN" on starboard bow; angles left; eight pirate marksmen, rifles, facing bow: all starboard cannon manned. The Sea Lion is angled left-rear, perfectly, with her starboard cannon.

(Yells) Fire! Sink the bastards!
Fire. Keep firing.

Six Sea Lion cannon shots hit Raven masts, railings, port cannons. Forward, rear swivel guns, fire. Marksmen fire repeatedly, shooting several pirates in backs; They turn; are shot in front. All pirate marksmen are dead, wounded. Raven cannon crews scramble from starboard cannon to help port crews; are shot by Sea Lion swivel gunners and marksmen. Six more cannon shot tear through masts, sails, cabins, railings. Pirates spin, fly, fall. Swivel gunners and marksmen fire repeatedly, raking ship. Six more Sea Lion cannon shot hit Raven's masts, railings, cabins, decks.

SHAWN
(Yells) Fire below decks!

Sea Lion crew crank 6 cannon down. Six cannon shot hit the Raven hull, at different heights, blow large holes. Six more cannon shot hit Raven's hull. Raven tilts; Sea Lion marksmen, swivel gunners fire until there's no movement on Raven. Raven's shattered masts lean left, pull ship down. Water fills holes rapidly. SHAWN looks up at masts, leaning toward them, spins wheel, hard left, escapes contact with masts. Eerie silence; no movement on Sea Lion or Raven; no explosions; Raven quietly sinks. Sea Lion crew stand, silently, faces in awe.

SHAWN
(Quietly) Cease fire. (Stares at
Raven disappearing; bubbling water)

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT: DUCETT MANSION DINING ROOM MORNING

GABRIELLE, DUCETT, AGNES sit at dining table.

AGNES

You're hurrying things too much;
wanting to go to work, shop and all
that. That, being said, I have work
to do. (She leaves room)

GABRIELLE

Morgan, the doctors and Raymond are
tending to Nathaniel and I've been
there every day. He made me promise
to have a little fun, some
distraction; so, I agreed.

DUCETT

Good. More fresh air will do
wonders. Shawn will be back, very
soon. Are you attending our costume
ball? You ARE the hostess.

GABRIELLE

Nathaniel insists I do, in spite of
him not feeling good enough to go.
But, if Shawn appears... then,
what?

DUCETT

I'd already invited him, before
these sad events. I want him to
have the chance to talk to you;
maybe make peace with you.

GABRIELLE

We have our angriest moments with
each other. I can't endure any
more. If he calls me names, Papa,
then what?

GABRIELLE sobs; stands, arms hang at sides. DUCETT stands,
holds her.

DUCETT

Maybe, some good will come from
this turmoil. Maybe, some divine
wisdom will guide both of you to a
higher level of behavior, more
fitting for the great love you
have, for each other.

GABRIELLE

I'll do my best, Papa, I really
will.

DUCETT takes handkerchief, wipes tears, kisses her on cheek.

DUCETT

Don't tell me what your costume
will be. Surprise me. Shop, today.
Work, tomorrow.

GABRIELLE smiles.

FADE OUT:

EXT: CHARLESTON HARBOR DAY

Sailing ship cruises into harbor; name on starboard bow,
MAGNIFIQUE.

CUT TO:

MAIN DECK

LA RUSH stands by railing, with man, 35.

LA RUSH

HAWKINS; you know what I want done.
We must be careful. Use SLADE and
the crew any way you need. I will
reward them well, if they succeed.
If they don't they'll wish they
were dead.

HAWKINS

We'll all do good, Mister La Rush.
You can count on us.

LA RUSH

I don't see Beaudry's ship. That is
most disappointing. I'll ask at the
shipping office. Also, they'll wish
they were dead, if there's the
slightest argument, fight, anything
that draws attention to us. They
will shave, be clean, be polite and
smile at everyone. Or else!

HAWKINS

Yes, sir. I'll tell them.

LA RUSH

I'm going to the shipping office,
then, into town.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

INT: SHIPPING OFFICE SHORT TIME LATER

LA RUSH enters; MICHAEL walks to him.

MICHAEL

Yes sir. What can I do, for you?

LA RUSH

I'm so disappointed; I haven't connected with my dear friend, Captain Beaudry of the Sea Lion. Perhaps you might help me. (Smiles)

MICHAEL

What do you wish to know?

LA RUSH

When he is returning. (Smiles)

MICHAEL

(Smiles) I would be happy to help you, Monsieur but, my hands are tied. It is against company rules. (Smiles, walks away, looks at papers)

LA RUSH is furious, fuming, red-faced, stares at MICHAEL. MICHAEL ignores him. LA RUSH leaves; slams door. MICHAEL looks up, smiles.

CUT TO:

EXT: CHARLESTON STREET SHOPS SHORT TIME LATER

GABRIELLE leaves street shop, carries bag. Loud sound of horses hooves, from around corner.

MALE VOICE

(Yells) Runaway team!

GABRIELLE is frozen, in middle of street. Team races around corner, toward GABRIELLE. Team swerves left and right. GABRIELLE can't decide. A man's arms grab her, around waist, turn and team races by. GABRIELLE sags, drops bag, is motionless. Camera shows LA RUSH holding her.

LA RUSH

There, there, ma Cherie. You are safe, now.

GABRIELLE lifts bag; turns. They walk to store veranda.
Oh, Miss. I have rescued the most
beautiful woman in the world. May I
ask your name?

GABRIELLE
Well... you are gallant, sir. Are
you French?

LA RUSH
Oui, Madamoiselle. That I am.

GABRIELLE
My name is Gabrielle Ducett.
I have not seen you before, in
Charleston. I studied dance in
Paris, a year ago. A lovely town.

LA RUSH
I am Pierre La Rush. Paris was most
fortunate.

GABRIELLE
Speaking of dancing; I'm hosting a
costume ball at my home this
Saturday and since you saved my
life, I'd like to invite you.

LA RUSH
That is most gracious of you.
I just arrived from Vera Cruz and
am here for business.

GABRIELLE
You did? That sounds intriguing.
Did you, by chance, encounter
Captain Shawn Beaudry and Morgan
Stewart, while you were there?

LA RUSH
I am stunned. Will you join me for
a cool drink, at this cafe? I have
some news you should know.

GABRIELLE
Alright.

They walk to cafe. Waiter seats them.

LA RUSH
Please bring us a tea. Is that
alright, my dear?

GABRIELLE

Perfect. What news have you, about
Vera Cruz?

LA RUSH

Are Beaudry and Stewart friends of
yours?

GABRIELLE

I may soon be engaged to Captain
Beaudry.

LA RUSH

Then you probably know all about
what happened.

GABRIELLE

Well, sailors are secretive about
what they tell their home folks.

LA RUSH

It was horrible. Beaudry was
arrested for murdering a beautiful,
young woman of ill-repute.

(Distressed face) She was mutilated
and thrown in an alley. He lost his
cuff-link by her body. The locals
almost lynched him but, he escaped.

GABRIELLE has shocked look on her face. LA RUSH takes her
hands.

I'm so sorry to distress you, ma
Cherie. Drink your tea and calm
yourself.

GABRIELLE stands.

GABRIELLE

I must leave, now. I thank you for
your news, as tragic as it is. Good-
bye.

GABRIELLE, teary, walks away. LA RUSH sits back, lights
cheroot, big smile. Hawkins appears, walks quickly to La
Rush; sits.

HAWKINS

Captain La Rush! The Sea Lion has
arrived! (Grins)

LA RUSH

(Scowls) We'll take a little ride
and set everything in place.

CUT TO:

EXT: SEA LION MAIN DECK DOCKS SAME TIME

Sea Lion ties up in berth. Sailors scurry about, with lines.
SHAWN hands packet to BRIAN.

SHAWN

Bring this to the office. If Mister
Ducett is not there, just leave it.
I'm going directly there, after I
see Nate and Morgan.

BRIAN

Aye, Aye, Cap! Good luck on
everything.

SHAWN

Thanks, Brian. Good job. No
injuries; no damage. (They smile)

SHAWN runs down ramp. He walks quickly down wharf to Silver Hawk. Runs up ramp. MORGAN is by rail.

SHAWN

How is he, Morgan?

MORGAN

We all got lucky, Shawn. Nate will
be okay. He's coming along. I told
him all about La Rush and Vera
Cruz. I'd like to ask you to wait a
little longer to see him but I
understand, if you can't. (Grins)
We're all still brothers, Shawn.

MORGAN extends hand; they shake; hug.

SHAWN

Thank god. I have to see Mister
Ducett right away. I'll tell you
about it, later.

SHAWN runs down ramp.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT: DUCETT HOUSE DINING ROOM

GABRIELLE, upset, speaks to DUCETT.

GABRIELLE
Stop treating me, like a child.

DUCETT
I told you everything important.

GABRIELLE
What's important is for me to
decide.

DUCETT
I don't expect you to tell Shawn or
myself, every move you make, with
Nathaniel. What's the difference?

GABRIELLE
Does Vera Cruz still want Shawn,
for murder? Did he escape?

DUCETT
I told you. Inspector Patrone
personally escorted Shawn to the
Sea Lion. Are you doubting me? Who
told you all this?

GABRIELLE
A gentleman with impeccable
credentials. A Mister Pierre La
Rush.

DUCETT steps back.

DUCETT
It was La Rush's prostitute, who
was murdered. The Inspector felt La
Rush did it but, couldn't prove it.
You stay away from him. He's
dangerous.

CUT TO:

EXT: DUCETT HOUSE SAME TIME

SHAWN knocks on door. AGNES opens door. (Smiles)

SHAWN

Hello, Agnes. I must see Mister
Ducett.

AGNES

I'll tell him.....

SHAWN walks quickly by her, goes to dining room. GABRIELLE hugs DUCETT.

GABRIELLE

No, Papa. I'm just so heartsick
over all this; I'm very weary-
minded. Why do sailors have to be
unfaithful?

DUCETT

I can't speak for Shawn.

SHAWN

I can.

GABRIELLE turns, glares at SHAWN.

GABRIELLE

This is a private conversation.

DUCETT walks quickly, to SHAWN.

DUCETT

What is it, Shawn? It must be very
important.

SHAWN

Yes, sir. Remember the sister-ship,
I thought might want revenge?

DUCETT

Yes. Did you encounter it? Do you
have many losses?

SHAWN

(Smiles) As we neared Havana
Harbor, we were followed. I was
able to continue east, dart into
Correges Cove; circle the first
small island, come around, behind
the Raven and sink her, with no
losses, no damage.

DUCETT is stunned. (Big smile)

DUCETT

Thank God, Shawn. That's
incredible. That is such good news;
that none of you were hurt.

SHAWN turns to GABRIELLE.

SHAWN

Whomever I happen to marry; I will
be faithful. I won't be running
around, naked; here, there and
everywhere. I trust you will wear
some clothing, for the costume ball
and not appear as Lady Godiva.
(Turns to DUCETT, winks, smiles;
DUCETT winks)

GABRIELLE, mouth open, eyes wide, stares. SHAWN walks out
front door.

GABRIELLE

Why, that insulting, horrible

DUCETT turns away, laughing quietly.
(mad) What's so funny, Papa?

DUCETT

Oh, nothing. Nothing at all.

GABRIELLE puts nose in air, turns, runs upstairs. DUCETT
sits, smiles broadly.

Now, I know, I'll soon have those
grandchildren. I'm a happy man.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

EXT: CLIFF ABOVE COVE NOON

GABRIELLE, mounted on Majestic, looks down on cove and beach.
SHAWN, on Rascal, slowly rides toward GABRIELLE, stops 100
feet away. GABRIELLE turns away, from cove, sees SHAWN; calm-
faced; rides to him.

GABRIELLE

Good-morning, Shawn. I hoped you'd
be here. Papa explained what
happened in Vera Cruz.

SHAWN

(Sternly) There's just one thing I want to say to you, Miss Ducett.

GABRIELLE

Oh, Shawn. Must we always argue?

SHAWN

That is completely up to you.

GABRIELLE

(Teary) What is it, you want to say?

SHAWN

If our first child is a girl, I want to name her Danielle.

GABRIELLE

(Cries) Oh, Shawn!

SHAWN

Why are you crying? Dry your eyes; let's ride to the foothills and work up an appetite.

GABRIELLE wipes eyes, smiles. They ride away, parallel with the forest. As they near the first trees, two gunshots sound, just missing them. Majestic rears up, throws GABRIELLE to ground. SHAWN dismounts, holds Rascal's reins. Third shot hits dirt, inches from GABRIELLE.

SHAWN

Are you alright? (She nods) Mount fast! Separate and zig-zag and let's get out of here!

They mount. Four more shots miss by inches. They zig-zag, four more shots just miss; they race away.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT: PIRATE'S COVE BAR AFTERNOON

LA RUSH sits in booth, in corner. Pretty, thirty year-old waitress serves him drink.

LA RUSH

(Places coin in her hand) I hear your name is Sally, ma Cherie.
(MORE)

LA RUSH(cont'd)

What time are you through, today?
(Smiles)

SALLY

Why do ya wanna know, Mister?

LA RUSH

I want to celebrate a great event
that will happen, today and I would
like to take you to a wonderful
dinner. (Smiles)

SALLY

Gee, Mister; that's kind o' you ta
do. I'm through in an hour. Then,
it'll only take me a minute ta
change my clothes for ya.

LA RUSH

That is just right. Meet me at the
livery barn. I'll have a buggy
ready.

SALLY smiles; leaves, waits on others. LA RUSH leans back,
smiles broadly. HAWKINS, SLADE enter; look around; nervous,
see LA RUSH; sit cautiously on chairs.

LA RUSH

Well, what are you waiting, for?
Give me the good news.

HAWKINS

We were ridin' ta the Ducett house,
like ya said, ta find Beaudry and
the girl. We saw them meetin' near
the cove. They rode kinda close; we
shot at 'em, kept shootin', just
couldn't hit 'em. (HAWKINS, SLADE
look down, scared)

LA RUSH

You imbeciles! How could you miss?
How!

SLADE

I dunno, Mister La Rush. I dunno!

LA RUSH is livid, purple-faced, trembling, glares at HAWKINS,
SLADE.

Go back to the ship, while I plan
another way.

HAWKINS

We can go back 'n try again.

LA RUSH
You idiots. The constable will be
all over. Get out of my sight!

HAWKINS, SLADE leave booth, look back, exit club.

FADE OUT:

EXT: LIVERY STABLE. EVENING

LA RUSH waits, with buggy.

SALLY
A buggy ride. This'll be so much
fun.

LA RUSH
Climb in, ma Cherie. We'll take a
little ride, in the moonlight,
first.

SALLY
(Steps in, sits, smiles) This is so
romantic.

LA RUSH heads buggy toward cove.

CUT TO:

EXT: WOODS AREA. SAME TIME

SHAWN, DUCETT, carry rifles, ride horses into beginning of
wooded area.

SHAWN
There were at least two of them.
From about here.

DUCETT picks up shell casings.

DUCETT
From right here. This is so
alarming, Shawn. Who's behind this?

SHAWN
I don't know. And to shoot at
Gabrielle, too? Why?

DUCETT

Let's ride over to the Constable's place and tell him, what's happening.

They turn horses, ride away. LA RUSH drives buggy on trail 200 feet from SHAWN, DUCETT. They do not see each other. LA RUSH smiles at SALLY; she smiles. They reach cliff above cove. LA RUSH exits buggy, takes SALLY'S hand, she exits, looks around.

SALLY

It's so beautiful, here. I never been here before.

SALLY overlooks cove. LA RUSH places hands on her shoulders; yanks her dress and bodice, down to ground, squeezes her breasts. She is naked.

Ya don't hafta be so rough. This is my good dress.

LA RUSH

(Sneers) I'm paying for this, you whore. I'll do what I want.

SALLY

(Teary) I wanna go back!

Starts crying.

LA RUSH

(Mean) When I'm through with you, Cherie; when I'm all through with you.

LA RUSH eases his hands around SALLY'S throat, tightens grip. SALLY tries to scream, escape, can't, gags, chokes as LA RUSH strangles her. She goes limp. LA RUSH shoves her as hard as he can, over cliff. She tumbles head-over-heels to beach, tangled, motionless. LA RUSH sneers, throws her clothes over cliff; wild evil look.

Now, I'm through with you, you bitch!

LA RUSH climbs into buggy, glances around, rides away quickly.

CUT TO:

EXT. MEADOWS NEAR DUCETT HOUSE SHORT TIME LATER

DUCETT

Well, Shawn, at least he'll read
our note and act on it, in the
morning.

SHAWN

That's all we can do tonight.

DUCETT

Stay the night, Shawn. Maybe get
drunk.

SHAWN

Hanging around us sailors will ruin
your reputation, sir.

They laugh, ride faster.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN

INT: DUCETT'S DINING ROOM MORNING

SHAWN, DUCETT sit at dining table. AGNES enters.

AGNES

Miss Gabrielle will be down
shortly. I told her Captain Beaudry
had stayed the night so, I think
she wants to look just right for
him.

SHAWN, DUCETT look at each other, smile. Hard knock on front door. AGNES opens door. Fifty year-old man, younger man on each side, stand there.

MAN

I'm Constable Sommers. Mister
Ducett is expecting me.

AGNES

Yes, sir; I know. Please come in.

AGNES leads them to dining-room. SHAWN, DUCETT stand, walk to them.

SOMMERS

Good-morning, Mister Ducett.
(Gestures to other two) My
deputies.

DUCETT

Constable Sommers; this is Captain
Beaudry. (Shawn, Sommers shake
hands)

SOMMERS

I checked the wooded area,
retrieved casings.

SHAWN

We have a few, also.

SOMMERS

We also checked the cove, in case
the assailants boated in. We were
shocked to find a young woman's
body at the bottom of the cliff.

SHAWN

How was she killed?

SOMMERS

Strangled. Why do you ask?

SHAWN

Because of another murder, in Vera
Cruz. This was different but, I
suspect, the same man.

DUCETT

A Pierre La Rush. We have no proof.

SOMMERS

If you can find any evidence, let
us know. Good-bye, sir.

SOMMERS, other two exit house. GABRIELLE enters room. She
wears beautiful, white, lace dress.

SHAWN

Good-morning, Gabrielle. You look
absolutely wonderful. Is that a new
dress?

GABRIELLE

Good-morning, Papa? I didn't know
you were here, Shawn.

SHAWN, DUCETT look at each other, smile.
Oh, this dress? Just something I
had, lying about. I heard voices.

DUCETT
The Constable found a young woman's
body, strangled, down at the cove.
Do not leave the house, until this
is solved, without Shawn or myself.

GABRIELLE
How horrible. I won't, Papa.

DUCETT
I'm tempted to cancel the ball.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT: DUCETT MANSION BALLROOM EVENING

Filled with guests in many different costumes, historical,
nautical, elegant. Many wear masks. SHAWN, GABRIELLE, DUCETT
talk.

DUCETT
You make a lovely Lady Hamilton, my
dear.

GABRIELLE
I think Shawn is the most handsome
Napoleon, ever. Shawn; let's dance.

They smile, walk to dance floor.

CUT TO:

INT: DUCETT MANSION BALLROOM ONE HOUR LATER.

GABRIELLE dances with HAWKINS. "DANCING WITH MY GIRL" plays.

HAWKINS
I thank you, Miss Ducett, for
dancing with me. I don't dance very
often, so I hope I don't step on
your feet.

GABRIELLE
You're doing just fine. What is
your name?

HAWKINS

My name is... I feel faint, Miss.
Will you please walk me to the
outside patio?

GABRIELLE

Of course.

GABRIELLE takes HAWKINS' arm. They walk just outside onto
patio.

HAWKINS

Do you see the two men, standing by
your father?

GABRIELLE

Yes. Are they friends of yours?

HAWKINS

Now, do you see the two men,
talking to Captain Beaudry?

GABRIELLE

Of course. What about them?

HAWKINS slides pistol, from waistband, enough to poke
GABRIELLE in back.

HAWKINS

If you move, Miss Ducett, I will
shoot you. (Gabrielle freezes) If
you make a sound, my friends will
instantly kill your father and
Beaudry. No harm will come to you,
if you come quietly. All we want is
to ransom you. We get the money,
all of you live. If not, you will
all die. Smile and let me know you
understand.

GABRIELLE smiles, nods "yes". HAWKINS keeps contact with
GABRIELLE.

We are going out the front door.
When we get to the door, you will
say, "I'd love to see your new
carriage". Then, get in the
carriage.

CUT TO:

SLADE talks to SHAWN; RUFUS smiles.

SLADE

Vera Cruz sounds like a wonderful
experience, Captain Beaudry.

Watches GABRIELLE exit front door with HAWKINS.

I wonder where Miss Ducett is
going.

SHAWN

(Looks, is wary) I'd better check,
on her. Pardon me.

SHAWN walks quickly to, exits front door. GABRIELLE is entering carriage. SHAWN rushes to carriage. SLADE, RUFUS follow. SHAWN looks inside carriage. SLADE presses pistol into SHAWN'S back.

SLADE

Two of my men will kill Mister
Ducett, if you make a sound. We
want a large ransom. We get it; no-
one gets hurt. Get into the
carriage, now!

SHAWN enters carriage, sits opposite GABRIELLE. SLADE. RUFUS join HAWKINS; point pistols at GABRIELLE, SHAWN.

SHAWN

We'll be alright, Gabrielle. We
can't let them kill your Papa.

CUT TO:

EXT. DOCKS EVENING A SHORT TIME LATER LIGHT FOG

Carriage stops by Magnifique. LA RUSH appears. SHAWN, GABRIELLE, both gagged, hands tied, exit. Arms held by SLADE, HAWKINS, DRIVER, OTHER, two each side.

LA RUSH

(To Gabrielle) We meet again, ma
Cherie. (Bows) Quickly. Onto the
ship. Set sail. We'll anchor out in
the bay!

Men roughly pull SHAWN, GABRIELLE ahead, up ramp. Camera turns, focuses on OLD MAN'S face, deep in shadows, across dock. Eyes wide open, staring.

FADE OUT:

EXT: DOCKS A SHORT TIME LATER MEDIUM FOG

Nathaniel strides quickly toward Silver Hawk. OLD MAN runs to him. Nathaniel pulls, cocks pistol.

NATHANIEL

Don't come any closer. What do you want?

OLD MAN

I been waitin' fer ya, Mister. Ya know that beautiful lady I seen ya with once?

NATHANIEL

Yes. What of her?

ONLOOKER

She was all tied up with a man and five men made 'em go onto a ship.

NATHANIEL

What did they look like?

ONLOOKER

All dressed fancy, with lace and all that. One sounded like one o' them Frenchies.

NATHANIEL

Which ship?

ONLOOKER

It was right there (Points to empty berth) but, it's gone, now.

NATHANIEL

La Rush! He's kidnapped them!
(Pulls out coins) Thanks.

NATHANIEL runs to Silver Hawk, up ramp.
(Yells) All hands on deck.
(Rings bell)

Twenty scattered men, JASON, scurry to him.
La Rush, that scurvy Frenchman, has kidnapped Miss Ducett and Captain Beaudry. Get underway. We must find them, fast. We'll have to make do, with you men. This damn fog!

Ropes undone, sails hoisted, ship moves.

CUT TO:

INT: DUCETT MANSION BALLROOM SAME TIME

DUCETT

(To Count) I've been looking for
Gabrielle and Shawn, without any
luck. Have you seen them?

COUNT

Miss Ducett was talking to a man,
on the rear patio awhile ago.
(Smiles) Perhaps, Captain Beaudry
and she, slipped away.

DUCETT

Yes; I'm sure that's it. (Smiles)

DUCETT talks to guests.

CUT TO:

INT: MAGNIFIQUE LARGE AREA BELOW DECK SAME TIME

LA RUSH

Tie them to those poles. (They
do)

The four crewmen are joined by twenty others, leering at
GABRIELLE. LA RUSH tears top of GABRIELLE'S dress open,
exposing her breasts.

SHAWN

I'm the one you want. Let her go.
You can get a big ransom for her,
no questions asked.

LA RUSH

Captain Beaudry. (Swings, smacks
Shawn across face. Gabrielle
screams) I didn't ask you.

SHAWN

What's this all about, La Rush?

LA RUSH

I want you to enjoy some of the
same pain you have caused me,
Beaudry.

SHAWN

I have done nothing to you.

LA RUSH

Nothing? (He strikes his riding
whip across side of Shawn's head)
You murdered my ship's captain.

SHAWN

If you refer to the scum who tried
to kill me, when I helped Miss
Ducett; I had to.

LA RUSH knees SHAWN in groin.

LA RUSH

Whatever; he's dead!

LA RUSH whacks SHAWN; right; left; right; left. LA RUSH'S
face gets livid.

Then, Monsieur, you sank my Black
Ship.

SHAWN

If I had known, it was yours, La
Rush, I'd have sunk it sooner.

LA RUSH

(Whacks Shawn; left; right on face)
You have your fun and I'll have
mine.

He tears at GABRIELLE'S clothes, exposes her to the waist.
The men leer, excited.

My men have worked hard to create
this scene, Monsieur; so it's only
proper, they get to enjoy Miss
Ducett; after I am personally
through, with her.

SHAWN

Kill us and get it done with.

LA RUSH

OH, NO! You get to see every moment
of our pleasure. You might learn
something; not that it will do you
any good!

A SAILOR rushes into room.

What is it? It had better be important!

SAILOR

Our man, in Havana, sent you a message, earlier, Captain. I forgot to give it to you.

He extends it to LA RUSH.

LA RUSH

Open it, man and read it, or get my whip across your face.

SAILOR

Opens envelope; reads it.

The Raven has disappeared, Captain La Rush. I have checked the whole area and there's no sign of it, or any of the men.

LA RUSH

(Turns livid) That's impossible.

SAILOR leaves. LA RUSH turns to SHAWN; whips him across side of head; kicks him in leg, side, thigh. LA RUSH visibly trembles.

CUT TO:

EXT: SILVER HAWK DECK SAME TIME MEDIUM FOG

NATHANIEL at wheel, sees the Magnifique. Twenty men, JASON gather around him.

NATHANIEL

Men; all I know is that La Rush has captured Captain Beaudry and Miss Ducett. I fear he will torture and kill them. Jennings, Oliver, Casey, O'Reilly. If I get invited aboard, you must get the whole crew drugged. The bottles are marked, including the case I'll give them. But, be ready to kill any you can't drug. They are all cutthroats and very dangerous so, be careful. If I fire my pistol. That means attack and kill.

JASON
Wh...wh...what ddd..do I...I
ddd..do?

NATHANIEL
Guard everything, below decks,
Jason. (JASON runs to hatchway)

The Silver Hawk eases to the Magnifique.

CUT TO:

INT: MAGNIFIQUE SAME ROOM SAME TIME

LA RUSH
All of you clear out. When I am
through, with them, you can do
anything you want and finish them.

A loud voice calls.

NATHANIEL
Ahoy; Captain La Rush! Ahoy, there!

LA RUSH
Who the hell is that?

NATHANIEL
La Rush! This is Captain Randall of
the Silver Hawk.

SHAWN, GABRIELLE look at each other.

I'm leaving port. This is my only
chance to make you rich.

LA RUSH
(To last sailor leaving room) Guard
them! (Runs up to top deck, to
railing)
What are you talking about?

NATHANIEL
Gold, Captain, gold. If you're not
interested, I'll be on my way.

LA RUSH
Now, wait a minute. Let me collect
my thoughts. (Pause) Come aboard,
Captain.

Crews throw ropes, hooks, bring ships together.

NATHANIEL

When I saw your ship gone, I
thought your chance was gone, too.

LA RUSH

(Frowns) This had better be good.

NATHANIEL climbs aboard Magnifique. JENNINGS helps him slide three cases of brandy across. Silver Hawk crew stands mid-deck, talk, laugh among themselves; do not look at LA RUSH. LA RUSH watches them, closely, warily, as they casually pretend to drink brandy. Thirty-five of LA RUSH'S crew mill about.

NATHANIEL

If we make a deal, we can
celebrate, with the finest brandy,
in the world. This is for your
crew.

LA RUSH

I'm having a little party, Randall,
down below. The finest brandy will
add to it. Help yourselves, men.

The crew quickly open bottles, drink. NATHANIEL walks quietly to LA RUSH. Speaks low; only LA RUSH can hear.

NATHANIEL

I need the meanest, toughest crew,
there is, to steal millions in gold
and countless jewels, La Rush. Are
you in or out?

LA RUSH

(Pause) I am in. What is involved,
mon Capitan?

NATHANIEL

The one provision is that there is
no connection to me, or my crew.
Agreed?

LA RUSH

Agreed. Do you have more brandy?
Both our crews are enjoying it.

NATHANIEL

I have ninety-six more cases. Is
that enough. I think I've had
enough, myself, already. (Acts a
little drunk)

LA RUSH

You can have some of your men come aboard. This will be a night, to remember. But, keep them on deck.

NATHANIEL

Jennings. If some of you want to bring more brandy and come aboard, okay but, stay topside. (To LA RUSH) We had some whores back at the docks but they weren't very pretty so, we dumped them overboard. They were sure angry. I think a couple drowned.

LA RUSH

You know how to treat whores. All women are whores. Come below, Randall and I'll show you a real beauty.

Silver Hawk's two swivel gun crews ease casually to their gun positions; drink brandy.

NATHANIEL grabs four bottles of brandy from case. LA RUSH leads NATHANIEL down steps, into room.

NATHANIEL

(Loud) Where's this great beauty you have, La Rush?

GABRIELLE, SHAWN look at each other, NATHANIEL enters.

LA RUSH

Well, what do you think?

NATHANIEL sets bottles down; walks to SHAWN, whacks him across face.

LA RUSH

What the hell are you doing? I don't mind you punching him but, why?

NATHANIEL

Three years ago, Beaudry sank my ship, off the West Indies. I could kill him.

LA RUSH

(To lone SAILOR) Get out.

SAILOR leaves. LA RUSH smiles.

(MORE)

It seems we have much in common,
Randall. Beaudry has to die but
first, I want him to enjoy my or
our appreciation of Miss Ducett.

NATHANIEL

(Removes jacket) You have a grand
prize here, La Rush. She is very
exciting.

LA RUSH

Would you like to enjoy her a
little, while I check topside?

NATHANIEL

I yield to you, sir. She is your
captive and you must be enraptured,
first. I'll check topside and be
right back.

LA RUSH

Oh, never mind. They'll all be
drunk, soon. I hope they don't fall
overboard. Just so they don't
disturb our fun.

LA RUSH removes boots, shirt, breeches, stands naked.

Ma Cherie. You will now know how it
feels to have a real man.

He walks to GABRIELLE. NATHANIEL draws pistol; fires once. LA RUSH turns, wild-eyed. NATHANIEL points pistol at LA RUSH.

CUT TO:

EXT: MAGNIFIQUE TOPSIDE SAME TIME MEDIUM FOG

NATHANIEL'S shot heard. JENNINGS, OLIVER, CASEY, O'REILLY, others draw pistols, shoot Magnifique crew members still alert; they try to draw pistols, fall dead. Swivel-gun crews shoot at random Magnifique crew members away from main group; they fall, dead. Crew stands over drugged ones; ready. JENNINGS looks around, runs down steps, opens door.

JENNINGS

(To NATHANIEL) All secure, topside,
Captain.

JENNINGS exits.

LA RUSH

(Stares at pistol, is livid with
rage) You... you....

NATHANIEL

Since you enjoy torture, La Rush,
here's some, for you.

NATHANIEL shoots LA RUSH, in stomach.
Stomach wounds are the most
painful, La Rush and take the
longest, for one to die.

LA RUSH grabs stomach, falls to knees. His eyes bulge; his
mouth hangs open.

Since this will take awhile; let me
help you get comfortable.

NATHANIEL kicks LA RUSH violently, under the jaw, boot slides
up face; LA RUSH screams, flips backwards onto back, keeps
screaming. NATHANIEL cuts GABRIELLE loose, then SHAWN.

SHAWN

I was sure we were dead, Nate!
Thank god, you came.

Looks at LA RUSH.

Forgive me, La Rush. I completely
forgot to tell you. The Raven is
resting at the bottom of Correges
Cove. All hands were lost. Isn't
that the saddest tale you've ever
heard. We didn't even get a
scratch. (Smiles. LA RUSH is
purple)

GABRIELLE hangs head, exhausted. SHAWN covers her, with his
shirt, lifts her, carries her up onto top-deck. OLIVER helps
SHAWN carry GABRIELLE onto Silver Hawk and below.

NATHANIEL

Cast off! Hurry, now!

SAILORS disconnect ropes, poles push ships apart. Silver Hawk
moves one hundred yards away, NATHANIEL turns ship. Gun crews
run to starboard cannon; face Magnifique. JASON runs to
NATHANIEL, wide-eyed.

All starboard guns. Ready.

JENNINGS

Ready, Captain.

NATHANIEL

(Yells) Fire!

JASON puts hands over ears. Front, rear swivel guns, five cannon fire, striking Magnifique decks, masts. Bodies fly, masts collapse. Gunners reload.

(Yells) Below decks. (Gunners crank cannon down) Fire!

Front, rear swivel guns, five cannon shots blast huge holes in Magnifique hull; powder room explodes; flames, bodies, debris shoot skyward.

(Looks at JASON) Give the order, Jason. Let's dock!

JASON

(Turns, yells) Let's dock! (Pause)
Captain; I did it! I did it! I
didn't stutter!

JASON, NATHANIEL, big grins. Silver Hawk moves to berth, ties up. A MAN runs to it; calls up.

MAN

(calls) Hey, Captain Randall.

NATHANIEL walks to railing.

Did you see that? The Magnifique just blew up and sank.

NATHANIEL

(Calls) Well, I'll be damned! I wonder, what happened!

CUT TO:

INT: DUCETT HOUSE FRONT ROOM TWO O'CLOCK IN MORNING

AGNES, in nightgown, opens door. SHAWN, GABRIELLE, NATHANIEL enter. DUCETT, in day clothes, rushes to GABRIELLE. MORGAN joins NATHANIEL, SHAWN; all hug, grin.

DUCETT

Gabrielle, my dear. You're alive and safe. What happened?

SHAWN

La Rush kidnapped us and Nate rescued us, with the damndest plan, you'll ever hear.

MORGAN

I'm so sorry. I didn't know what was happening.

DUCETT

Agnes; give Gabrielle a nice bath
and put her to bed.

Kisses GABRIELLE. AGNES takes GABRIELLE, arm around shoulders; they go up stairs. DUCETT watches.

DUCETT

(Teary, shakes their hands warmly)
I'm pouring and we're drinking.

NATHANIEL

I gave cases of brandy to La Rush
and his crew and didn't get to
drink a drop. I accept your offer.

SHAWN, NATHANIEL, MORGAN sit. DUCETT pours brandy, fills glasses, hands to them.

DUCETT

To the finest men in the universe.
(Raises glass) Shawn! Nathaniel!
Morgan! Here's to all of you!

DUCETT drinks most of glass; sits; puts head in hands; looks down, crying. SHAWN looks at DUCETT, NATHANIEL, MORGAN.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

EXT: SEA LION RAMP. THREE DAYS LATER EARLY EVENING

GABRIELLE runs up ramp; steps on-deck. Six sailors stand around.

GABRIELLE

Is Captain Beaudry here?

SAILOR

Yes, Miss. This way, please.

SAILOR leads GABRIELLE through hatch, down steps. Knocks on cabin door. SHAWN opens door; smiles.

SHAWN

Gabrielle. Please, come in.

GABRIELLE enters. They hug.

Please sit. (Smiles. Waves her to chair.)

GABRIELLE sits.

GABRIELLE
Are you alright, Shawn? You're
looking better.

SHAWN
It's been three days. (Smiles) How
are you?

GABRIELLE
I couldn't wake up. I felt drugged.

SHAWN
I had terrible dreams about us
fighting and it never made any
sense.

GABRIELLE
I did, too. It was, as though one
more angry word would destroy us
forever. (Gets teary-eyed)

SHAWN
(Smiles) Right now, you could call
me everything possible and I would
just smile.

GABRIELLE
I wouldn't smile. I couldn't. (More
teary) Nathaniel came by to tell us
he's sailing, straight out, into
the Atlantic.

SHAWN
Nate came here. We went to
Molly's.....

GABRIELLE stares at SHAWN. SHAWN laughs.
No... nothing, like that. He wanted
to thank her for getting the
doctor, that night. (Pause)
Since we met, Gabrielle; I have had
the feeling that you have been
consumed by some determined, sweet
revenge. (Gets teary-eyed) What
have I done, my love, to cause such
anger, such horrible behavior. I
might even call it hatred. I have
to know; Gabrielle. I have to know.

GABRIELLE stands, crying hard. SHAWN stands, facing her,
tears run down face.

GABRIELLE

YOU.....YOU..... (Pause, drops voice) didn't do anything, Shawn.
You didn't do anything. (Sobs hard)

SHAWN gently wraps his arms around GABRIELLE and holds her to him.

SHAWN

(Looks closely, into her eyes) I would say "you lie" but, I hope you don't. (Smiles)

CUT TO:

EXT: SILVER HAWK DECK EARLY EVENING

NATHANIEL, holds wheel; stands, straight, tall, mouth set firmly. The Silver Hawk drifts from dock. Music, laughter sounds from inside Molly's, as MOLLY exits; walks halfway across wharf; watches Silver Hawk leave. She smiles; waves.

NATHANIEL

(Spins wheel right) We're coming about.

Sails unfold, billow. Silver Hawk straightens, moves ahead. Camera slowly circles NATHANIEL, facial close-up.

CREW VOICE-OVER

(Chant)

OH OUR CAPTAIN THIS NIGHT IS A SAD
ONE INDEED: HE SAVED HIS LASS AND
HER LOVER WE ALL WITNESSED HIS
DEED: FAREWELL MY TRUE LOVE FOR I
SAIL AWAY YOUR MEMORY LIES DEEP AND
I FEAR I CANNOT STAY: HE SET SAIL
HE SET SAIL: NO PARDON IS FOUND FOR
THE MISERY I FEEL I SEEK COMFORT
FROM THE SEA AND PRAY THIS HEART
DOES HEAL: HE SET SAIL HE SET SAIL:
I'VE LOST ALL THE PLEASURE OF LOVE
THAT'S PURE GOLD I'VE LOST ALL THE
TREASURE MY HEART WILL ALWAYS HOLD

JASON runs across deck, holds Keats book. Abruptly stops, waits.

NATHANIEL

(Turns, looks at JASON; smiles)
Come on, Boy! Let's hear some more
Keats.

JASON smiles broadly; steps to NATHANIEL'S side. NATHANIEL gently puts right arm around JASON'S shoulder. Camera close-up of NATHANIEL'S and JASON'S faces. JASON opens worn book.

JASON

BRIGHT STAR WOULD I BE STEADFAST AS
THOU ART NOT IN LONE SPLENDOR HUNG
ALOFT THE NIGHT AND WATCHING WITH
ETERNAL LIDS APART LIKE NATURE'S
PATIENT SLEEPLESS EREMITE

Camera shows side of ship at water-level, slashing through the Atlantic.

THE MOVING WATERS AT THEIR PRIEST-
LIKE TASK TO PURIFY OUR SOULS AND
LET US BASK

THE END

128 minutes

(MORE)

