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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  
 into 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 sniffing 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 pppleased tttto mmmmeet  
yyyou.

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

NATHANIEL  
 Jason is our new cabin-boy.

JASON  
 Yyyyou'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

Ahhhh! 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, Mademoiselle. 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 EREMITTE

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 )





