

THE KISS GOODBYE

By Edmond Dantes

FADE IN :

SUPER : 1736

EXT. DESERT ISLAND - BEACH - DAY

Washed up on shore, the remains of a ship. Gold and silver coins scattered among four bodies of men, with the second, WILLIAM (50s) being the oldest. SIMON, (mid 30s) face down, opens his eyes as the incoming tide soaks him.

He chokes, spits out bits of sand, gets his bearings. The whiteout of the sun fades, his vision focuses. He scrambles to the man closest to him. No pulse.

Simon struggles to get to his feet. He hobbles over to the next body. Falls to his knees. He is successful in reviving William, who coughs up blood. But it's already too late. William struggles to speak. A smile forms.

WILLIAM

Dupot. Simon. First Mate.

SIMON

Save your strength, Captain.

WILLIAM

Look around you Dupot. You're the captain now.

SIMON

If that were true, I would need a ship. The Poignard is gone. That's all what's left of her.

WILLIAM

I need to see it.

Simon picks him up, turns him to gaze upon the ship's remains.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

Beauty, she was.

Grimacing in agony, William struggles to get his right hand to his lips. He blows a kiss. He lets out a sigh of joy.

William grasps Simon's hand. Holds it tight. His smile fades, his arm goes limp.

SIMON

William! William!

INT. THE POIGNARD - GALLEY - DAY

What's left of it anyway. Partially flooded and slanted at an angle, Simon scavenges, watching his step. He finds a compass, which works. Pockets it.

A SEVERED HAND floats past him. Despite everything that's happened, the sight still repulses him. He gathers himself, and finds an old skillet.

UNDERWATER - DAY

Simon dives, swims around corals, some fish. Past a group of **sea sponge**, he finds more pieces of silver. The crab guarding the coins is more appealing.

EXT. DESERT ISLAND - SHORELINE- DUSK

Simon's hands frantically rubs two sticks, smoke forms over the small stack of collected twigs and wood.

EXT. DESERT ISLAND - SHORELINE - NIGHT

Simon cooks the crab in the skillet.

Simon takes a sea sponge, douses it with rum and soaks up infection from a wound on his left ankle.

UNDERWATER- DAY

Simon, now with a ripped cloth tied around the left ankle, retrieves the silver coin. He looks around, swims towards another.

EXT. DESERT ISLAND - TREELINE - NIGHT

Another campfire. Fish this time.

Simon looks at the small pile of silver and gold collected.

EXT. DESERT ISLAND - BEACH - MORNING

William's boots are missing.

Two gold coins over William's eyes. A crow pecks away at his face, knocking over one of the coins.

A ship off in the distance corners around the reef.

TREELINE

Simon wakes up, grabs a telescope. Tramps through the patch of jungle and looks out. He spots the ship. As it approaches, he notices the red flag.

He promptly gets a pair of boots on. They were previously worn by William.

He hustles to his campsite. Dumps as much dirt on it as he can, crushes the remaining embers.

Scoops up the coins in a makeshift burlap pouch.

REEF

Two sets of men on two dinghies row towards shore.

TREELINE

Simon watches them with the telescope. Backs away.

SHORELINE

The PIRATES arrive. The first man out, DEATHBEARD (50s) leads. He is unfazed by the corpses on the beach, with the exception of one. A wicked smile finds him.

Gazes upon William.

DEATHBEARD

William Panzier, I presume. How wonderful to make your acquaintance.

Gives a rough snort, spits on William's chest.

DEATHBEARD (CONT'D)

If your ghost can hear me, your gold and silver is mine.

CLIFF OVERLOOKING REEF

Simon hunkers low as he makes his way up. He creeps up to the edge. The PIRATE SHIP sixty feet below. Only TWO PIRATES on the ship, one of them in the crow's nest, both distracted by the activity on the shore.

The ship has minor damage. The view reveals a burned out section of the deck that was hastily repaired.

Simon considers his options. He looks back to the shore, where Deathbeard and his crew scavenge the dead. Deathbeard picks up a lone silver coin.

Simon ties the sack tighter. Stands up carefully, and HEAVES the sack over the edge and

SMACK! It hits the deck and the coins spill out.

Simon backs up a few steps.

The Pirate in the Crow's Nest looks down at the mess, as does the second man.

Simon charges, takes a big leap, arms out. He **SLAMS** into the Crow's Nest Pirate, taking his place. The Pirate falls on the burned deck area, **CRASHES THROUGH**.

Simon rides the rope down.

EXT. PIRATE SHIP - DECK - DAY

The final pirate, astonished. Pulls out a knife. Charges Simon. Both struggle for dominance. Simon gets the better of him, wrestles the knife away from the Pirate, and throws him overboard.

Simon picks up the knife.

A YOUNG PIRATE(17) comes up from the galley. Simon points the knife at him.

SIMON

My name is Simon Duot. I'm taking over this ship.

YOUNG MAN

I'm just the cook.

SIMON

(doubts it)

Well, Cook, do you want to live?

The Cook glances toward the coins.

YOUNG MAN

Is that all of it?

SIMON

What I could find. Left a few on
the beach.

YOUNG MAN

You won't get away. Deathbeard's on
his way back.

Simon glances towards shore. Sure enough, Deathbeard's men
heard the noise, and are getting back in the dinghies.

SIMON

You can have half.

YOUNG MAN

(nervous smile)

At your service, Captain.

SIMON

Raise the anchor, let's get out of
here.

YOUNG MAN

And Deathbeard?

SIMON

Go, and earn your fee.

The Young Man goes to the rear of the ship. Simon goes to one
of the cannons. Loads it. Aims it towards Deathbeard's
dinghy.

Lights the fuse.

FADE OUT.

(CONT'D)