

A PIRATE ADVENTURE

CHAPTER 3



Battle in the Lagoon

The cannon on the *New Hope* rang out again signaling to the men on the beach to return to the ship immediately.

Jason and the crew ran for the boats on the beach. They carried all of the supplies they could and loaded them quickly into the lifeboats. They pushed off from the sand and started to row the oars as fast as they could. As they approached the *New Hope*, the white sails of another ship appeared. It was coming around the corner of the island. The ship was approaching the harbor.

When Jason and the crew climbed the ropes to board the *New Hope*, they turned to look at the large ship as it came fully into view. It was a navy ship. The banners hung from the masts showing that an admiral was on board the ship. Relief came over all of the crew members as they were able to relax. It wasn't the *Red Calypso* after all.

The returning sailors took the fresh supplies to the galley. Barrels of fresh water were tied to the deck. The fresh fruit was passed around to the sailors who had remained on the ship. Everyone was more relaxed now that the navy ship was approaching. They would be safer because of the navy ship would be in the harbor with them.

The name on the ship was *Intrepid*. It was a grand ship with tall sails and brightly colored paint. She had some damage from a battle with another ship. It appeared that they were also coming for supplies and repairs.

As the ship entered the harbor it began to take up its sails and slow down. It moved

slowly toward the *New Hope* and dropped its anchor when the ships were side-by-side.

Suddenly a black flag raised on the foremast. The flag had the familiar skull and crossbones of a pirate ship. Shock filled the minds of the sailors. How could this be? One of the best ships in the navy was now a pirate ship. How did this happen?

“Look, that’s Captain Horatio!” one of the men yelled out.

When the crew looked up they saw a tall man in a dark blue waistcoat with copper buttons down the front of it, standing at the back of the ship. He had a big smile on his face. He took off his hat and bowed to them, and then he shouted, “Attack!”

Just then the heads of the pirates appeared above the gunnels of the ship. They stood along the starboard side and yelled across the water. They were preparing to board the *New Hope*.

There was no time to run. The *New Hope* was sitting in the middle of the harbor with its anchor holding it in place.

The pirates swung on ropes across the water and landed on the ship. They had their weapons ready for a fight.

Captain Fortner yelled from the bridge, “Stand down men. Put your weapons down. We cannot win this fight. Let the pirates have what they want”.

The pirates told all of the sailors to get down onto their knees. They tied their hands behind their backs. Some of the pirates hit the crew of the *New Hope* and tried to get them to fight, but the crew obeyed the captain.

The pirates took the fresh food and fruit. They opened the hatches and took what cargo would fit on the *Intrepid*. They brought the soldiers off the *Intrepid* and had them join the crew of the *New Hope*. The pirates found wine and rum on the ship and passed the bottles around. There was much noise as the pirates drank and got very drunk. The pirates began to eat and drink so much that they became inattentive to their prisoners. When Captain Horatio boarded the ship he became angry with his men for getting so drunk.

They just laughed and continued to drink.

He walked past the prisoners who were sitting on the deck and inspected them. He kicked them and pulled their hair to get a better look at them. He asked a few of them questions about their experience as sailors and he laughed when they said they would never be pirates.

“We’ll just see about that!” Captain Horatio said, as he laughed.

When he got to Jason, he stopped.

“Aren’t you a little young to be on a merchant ship?” Captain Horatio asked Jason.

“No sir, I am Jason Wellington and I am a sailor second class!”

The captain laughed, “Jason Wellington, sailor second class? Now that’s a good one. Who promoted you to that rank?”

“Captain Fortner did because I thought of the idea of the exploding boxes,” Jason said proudly.

“You thought of that? You destroyed my ship!” Captain Horatio said as he slapped Jason across the face hard enough to knock him over onto the deck.

“So you are responsible for that. We were lucky that we encountered the *Intrepid* before we sank. We fooled them into helping us, if not, we would have been goners. I should have you thrown into the sea!” Captain Horatio yelled at Jason.

Jason held back the tears. The side of his face was red from where the captain hit him.

“I wish you had!” Jason yelled at the captain.

Captain Horatio just laughed at Jason. “You’re such a silly boy.”

Captain Horatio continued to walk back and forth looking over the crew of the *New Hope* and the soldiers who were sitting quietly on the deck. He appeared to be looking for new recruits to take on his ship.

Captain Fortner brought his sword and handed it to Captain Horatio in surrender.

Captain Horatio ordered Captain Fortner and his officers to get into one of the lifeboats and go to the shore.

While Captain Horatio was busy giving orders, one of the crew members of the

New Hope had managed to untie his ropes. He helped the man next to him and then one-by-one all of the men were untied. The pirates were too drunk to notice. They were hanging off of the ropes like monkeys and singing songs.

Being very quiet and using sign language, each of the crew members and the soldiers knew what to do.

Just as Captain Fortner was about to leave the ship, the soldiers and the crew of the *New Hope* jumped up and started to fight. They caught the pirates completely off guard. The fight was quick. They threw many of the pirates off of the ship into the lagoon. They were too drunk to put up much of a fight. In a matter of a few minutes the tables had turned and now it was Captain Horatio who was tied up along with his crew. The deck was a prison for the pirates. The *Intrepid* and the *New Hope* were now free.

Captain Fortner was also very surprised, but proud of his crew. All of the soldiers and the crew of the *New Hope* cheered loudly at their success.

The crew of the *Intrepid* told the story of how the *Red Calypso* had fooled them. The *Red Calypso* was on fire and the *Intrepid* offered to give help, and soon they came alongside.

Not knowing that it was a pirate ship, the *Red Calypso* surprised them by firing a round of cannon balls at them. Then the pirates attacked the ship before they were ready to defend themselves. The admiral, the captain and the officers of the *Intrepid* were ordered into a lifeboat and set off onto the ocean. Now the crew of the *Intrepid* needed to find them as soon as possible.

The navy sailors returned to their ship and prepared to leave. There were a few pirates left on the ship, but they were no match for the returning sailors.

Jason went over to Captain Horatio and looked him in the face.

Being very bold he asked him a very direct question. "I was told that you captured my father Henry Wellington about five years ago. Do you know what happened to him?" Jason questioned the captain.

"You're Henry Wellington's son? I am not surprised. He was a good man," the

captain answered.

“He WAS a good man?” Jason asked. “Is he dead?”

“It’s a long story son, I will need to tell you about it later,” Captain Horatio said softly.

Jason couldn’t get the thought out of his head. He was eager to hear what Captain Horatio had to tell him about his father.

The first mate from the *New Hope* took command of the *Intrepid* and they set sail in search of the admiral and captain. They would meet the *New Hope* at the naval station later.

Meanwhile the crew of the *New Hope* prepared for the voyage ahead of them. There was a navy port about a day’s journey from the place where they were anchored. When they arrived there they would drop off Captain Horatio and his crew for trial.

There were too many prisoners to put into the brig on the ship, so most of the men sat on the deck. Occasionally the ropes were checked to see if they had become loose. The *New Hope’s* crew didn’t want a reversal of what they had done to free themselves.

The crew confined Captain Horatio to the guest room. It was better accommodations than the brig, but he wasn’t allowed out of the room.

Having extra men on the ship meant that the food supplies would go much faster. Pappy had to cook twice the number of meals he was used to cooking. This kept Jason and him very busy.

Jason wanted to talk to Captain Horatio about his father, but he was so busy he didn’t have time. In addition the captain had ordered that no one was to talk to the prisoners.

The journey to Deerfield Bay was not easy. The breeze was from the north and they had to sail into the wind. This made the trip take longer than anticipated. It was two days before they reached the safety of the harbor.

As they entered the harbor, it was late afternoon. The place was busy with ships coming and going. Deerfield Bay was an important resupply harbor for ships going to the

New World. As the *New Hope* entered the bay, a smaller ship pulled alongside. The harbor master climbed the ropes to the deck where he asked to speak to the captain. The officer-in-charge took him to the bridge. As they walked to the bridge the harbor master asked who the prisoners were that were sitting on the deck. The officer told him that they were the crew of the *Red Calypso*.

“The *Red Calypso*? We heard that the *Red Calypso* had sunk at sea,” the harbor master stated in surprise.

“That’s true, but before she sank, they commandeered the *Intrepid*. They tried to capture our ship as well, but we were able to capture them instead. It’s a long story and I’m sure the captain would love to tell it to you,” the officer said with a big smile on his face.

The harbor master went to the bridge to give the captain instructions on where to dock the ship. Then he asked many questions about how the *New Hope* had captured the dreaded Captain Horatio and how the *Red Calypso* had sunk.

The harbor master left the ship and headed as fast as he could to the pier in order to tell the amazing story of the capture of Captain Horatio.

When the *New Hope* pulled up to its berth on the dock, there was a huge crowd waiting for them. There were loud cheers and the people were trying to get as close as possible to get a look at Captain Horatio.

It took some time for the ship to be tied to the dock and for the gang plank to be dropped.

The commanding officer, Commodore Watkins of the naval station at Deerfield Bay, walked up the plank to take command of the ship and oversee the orderly removal of the prisoners. Several soldiers followed with their guns ready.

The pirates were removed first. They were marched down the long pier to the prison next to the barracks of the navy sailors. They were in chains and the rattling of the links made an eerie sound. People yelled and spat on the pirates. They were happy that at last the crew of the most famous pirate ship on the high seas that had plundered innocent

merchant ships was now in custody.

The commodore and Captain Fortner met in his quarters to discuss how to remove Captain Horatio from the ship. They were afraid that he would be killed if he was made to walk down the pier to the prison. He was hated, yet he needed to have a fair trial before he was executed; as tempting as it was to just let the people finish him off first.

It was dinner time and the commodore and the captain ate together while they discussed what should happen with Captain Horatio.

After Jason took the food to the captain's quarters, he took food to the door of the guest room where Captain Horatio was being held.

When the door opened, Captain Horatio recognized Jason.

"Aren't you Jason Wellington?" the captain inquired.

"Yes sir," Jason responded.

"Sit down, I have something to tell you about your father. Are you ready to listen?" the captain asked.

Jason sat down on the edge of the bed eager to hear what the captain had to say about his father.

"Yes SIR! What do you know about my father?" Jason questioned.

"We captured your father's ship the *Constantine* about five years ago. When we did, we took him along with about twenty other prisoners. We let the ship go, but your father became a member of the crew.

"It's not easy being on a pirate ship. Either you become a member of the crew or you die.

"He was well liked and worked hard to be a good member of the crew. He didn't like the fighting and usually stayed on the ship whenever we attacked another ship. Other than that he was a hard worker.

"On a pirate ship, there is always a challenge for authority. This creates order on a pirate ship. There is a chain of command when the more powerful personalities take control.

“Your father challenged his superiors and always won. He moved up the ranks quickly; it was the only way he could survive.

“About a year ago he had an argument with Captain Horatio. It was a big fight. Half the men supported the captain and half your father. At the end of the fight your father won the challenge. Captain Horatio was thrown into the sea.”

“What about my father, what happened to him?” Jason asked.

“He became Captain Horatio, I am he,” the captain said.

VOCABULARY (*Match the word to its definition*)

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. relax _____ | a. top edge of the side of a boat |
| 2. damage _____ | b. housing, room |
| 3. gunnel _____ | c. brave, daring |
| 4. recruits _____ | d. setback, problem |
| 5. bold _____ | e. rest, calm down |
| 6. brig _____ | f. hurt, cause harm |
| 7. reversal _____ | g. new workers |
| 8. confined _____ | h. take by force, hijack |
| 9. accommodations _____ | i. jail cell on a ship |
| 10. commandeer _____ | j. restricted, in jail |

TRUE OR FALSE

- | | |
|---|-------|
| 1. The <i>New Hope</i> rang its bell as a warning. | T / F |
| 2. The <i>Intrepid</i> was a navy ship. | T / F |
| 3. Captain Fortner surrendered. | T / F |
| 4. Jason was thrown into the sea. | T / F |
| 5. The pirates got drunk on wine. | T / F |
| 6. Captain Horatio was captured. | T / F |
| 7. The admiral and the captain of the <i>Intrepid</i> saved the ship. | T / F |
| 8. The crew brought fresh food to the <i>New Hope</i> . | T / F |
| 9. Henry Wellington became a pirate. | T / F |
| 10. Jason met his father. | T / F |

MULTIPLE CHOICE:

1. What was Captain Horatio's real name? _____
 - a) Pappy
 - b) Garold Lawson
 - c) Jason Wellington
 - d) Henry Wellington

2. What was the name of the navy ship? _____
 - a) *Intrepid*
 - b) *Red Calypso*
 - c) *New Hope*
 - d) *Constitution*

3. What did the men in the village on the lagoon do for a living? _____
 - a) cooked food
 - b) hunted in the forest
 - c) sailors
 - d) fisherman

4. What did the sailors hear that made them return to the ship? _____
 - a) cannon
 - b) bell
 - c) thunder
 - d) I see a big ship!

COMPREHENSION: (*Write a complete sentence to answer the question.*)

1. How long did it take to get to the lagoon?

2. What kind of food did the sailors take to the ship?

3. What was the name of the ship that sailed into the lagoon?

4. What happened to the admiral and captain of the *Intrepid*?

5. What did Captain Horatio do to Jason when he saw him on the deck?

6. What did the pirates find that they began to drink?

7. How did the sailors get untied?

8. Who surrendered his sword?

9. Where was Captain Horatio held as a prisoner?

10. Who told Jason about his father?