

A PIRATE ADVENTURE

CHAPTER 4



Transformation

“YOU’RE MY FATHER?!” Jason said, in shock. “That can’t be true. You’re the most hated man in the world!”

Jason had the look of surprise on his face as he found out that the notorious Captain Horatio was really his father. It had been five years since his father disappeared. His family was told that he was lost at sea. They never thought that they would ever see him again.

“It’s true, I’m your father. When I heard your name, I knew I had to change my ways. That’s why I let your crew overcome us. It was time for me to end this life. I’m willing to take the consequences for my actions,” the captain said, looking deep into Jason’s eyes. “I’m so sorry I’ve let you down.”

“I’m so proud of you son. I’m amazed at what you have accomplished. I’ve heard many stories about the cabin boy and how he helped to sink my ship.”

“Why’d you hit me so hard?” Jason asked, rubbing the red spot on his cheek.

“I didn’t want the men to know that you were my son,” he answered. “I’m ready to take the punishment I deserve. I’m so sorry that I’ve been such a disappointment to you. I had to survive.”

“No, you did what you had to do to survive. We’ll make a plan to get you out of here,” Jason said as he ran to his father to give him a hug.

“There are two men on the ship who remember you, and they said you were the best friend a man could have. I’ll see if they will help us get you out of here. We only

have a few hours before they come to get you. We've got to move fast."

As Jason left the room he greeted the two guards who were standing at the entrance and then took the empty plate to the galley.

Pappy was cleaning the galley when Jason walked in.

"Pappy, you said you knew my father, right?" Jason asked,

"Yes sir, he was the best friend I ever had," Pappy replied.

Jason said softly to Pappy, "Are you willing to trust me on something very important? Will you keep my secret?"

"Depends on what it is," Pappy responded.

"I have to have your absolute promise that you won't tell anyone about what I'm going to tell you. I have to have your solemn oath," Jason said, very seriously."

Pappy nodded in agreement.

"I know where my father is. I need your help to rescue him. Will you help me?" Jason asked, but not giving away too much information yet.

"I'll do anything for your father. Was he one of the prisoners that was taken off of the ship?" He asked.

"Not exactly. He's still on the ship," Jason responded.

"He's on the ship? Where?" Pappy got very curious about what Jason was saying.

"He's in the guest quarters," Jason spoke softly. "He's Captain Horatio."

"You've got to be kidding! There's no way that Captain Horatio is your father," Pappy said, very surprised.

Jason went on to tell him the story of his father's capture and what he had done to survive. He told Pappy all about the story Captain Horatio had told him. Pappy seemed to be suspicious, but listened intently.

"Are you willing to help me rescue him?" Jason begged.

"Are you sure that he's your father?" Pappy asked.

"Yes, I'm sure," Jason replied.

"We'll need some help," Pappy said, thinking about how to make Jason's plan

work.

“I know someone else who might help us. Garold Lawson was a good friend of my dad’s. Maybe he’ll help us,” Jason surmised.

“Go talk to him. I’ll work on some things while you are gone. We can talk when you get back. It’s dark now, and we only have a few hours before he’ll be taken to the navy prison,” Pappy said to Jason, as he began to move around the galley looking for things he might need.

Jason went below and found Garold.

Jason pulled on Garold’s sleeve while he lay resting on his hammock. “Garold, I need to talk to you. Will you come to the galley with me? I have something very important to tell you,”

“Hold on a minute there son, let me get my shoes on,” Garold replied, as he rolled out of his hammock and put his shoes on his feet.

“Come quickly, we don’t have a lot of time,” Jason pleaded, as he pulled on Garold to follow him.

When Jason and Garold got the galley, Garold’s curiosity was very high.

“OK, what’s going on? Why’d you bring me here in the middle of my rest?” Garold said, obviously irritated at losing some sleep.

Jason explained to Garold all that his father had told him. Pappy nodded in agreement when Jason came to the part about helping to rescue him.

Pappy jumped in, “I think we can do this, but we need a few things. We’ll need scissors, a razor, some clothes, and a scarf. I’ll send Jason to the room with something for the captain to eat before he goes to bed. He’ll give the captain the things I mentioned. The captain will need to change his appearance. He’ll need to look like a common sailor.

“Tell him to fill his clothes with the bed sheets and lay them on his bed so it looks like he is sleeping. We’ll create a disturbance so the guards will be distracted. At that time Henry will leave the room and hide on the deck.

“When the guards return, Jason will come out of the room as if nothing had

happened. Are you with us?" Pappy asked, looking straight at Garold.

"You bet!" Garold responded, "Anything to help my good friend."

Pappy prepared a cup of rum and a few biscuits for Jason to take to his father. Jason did exactly as the plan was spelled out. As he entered the room he showed his father the things he had brought with him. He didn't speak for fear the guards would hear him. His father nodded that he understood.

Henry took off his clothes and Jason filled them with the bed sheets putting them on the bed so it looked like Captain Horatio was sleeping.

Henry quietly cut his hair and shaved his beard so it looked rough and unkempt. He dressed in the clothes Jason brought and put the scarf over his hair. He looked completely different. He no longer looked like the dreaded Captain Horatio. He now looked like a common sailor.

Just as he finished getting prepared there was a knock on the door.

"Are you finished in there young man? You need to come out now," the guard said through the door.

"I'll be right there. I just need to gather the plate and cup," Jason responded.

A loud noise came from outside the door. There was confusion on the deck. Jason opened the door and saw that the guards had gone to see what the problem was. He told his father where to meet Pappy and Garold when the disturbance was over. Jason's dad slipped quietly out of the room. Henry joined the crew to watch the activity on the deck.

Jason stayed in the room waiting for the guards to come back.

Pappy and Garold were having a fight and all of the crew were cheering them on. Garold was winning, but Pappy was putting up a good fight. As soon as they saw the door open and close, Pappy fell down and said he quit. Everyone cheered for Garold who jumped up and down in victory.

Pappy and Garold began to sing, and pretend to be drunk. The other sailors joined in. The fight was over and the guards returned to their post.

Jason asked the guards to let him out of the room. When he left, Jason took the hair

his father had cut off and threw it over the side of the ship. It would be harder to recognize Henry if they didn't know he had cut his hair and beard.

After a little while, Garold and Pappy met Henry by one of the hatches. They made a plan to leave the ship. It was very dark on the deck so it was hard to see each other. Henry didn't say anything. He just followed what Pappy and Garold were doing. They told him to act drunk. They told him they would carry him off the ship. They told him to keep his head down.

Pappy and Garold were holding Henry, who was acting drunk. They walked toward the gang plank while Henry held his head down so no one could see his face.

"We have to take this man to shore. He has had too much to drink and he's causing problems," Pappy explained.

They were given permission to go ashore. They went down the long gang plank and then went down the docks with Henry leaning on the two of them acting as if he was unable to walk on his own. As soon as they got out of the light of the gas lamps that are along the docks and were in the dark shadows of the buildings, Henry stood up.

"Thanks," Henry simply said, as he hugged Pappy and then Garold. With that, Henry disappeared into the darkness.

VOCABULARY (*Match the word to its definition*)

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. notorious ____ | a. wonder, interest |
| 2. consequences ____ | b. conclusion, guess |
| 3. surmise ____ | c. annoyed, bothered |
| 4. curiosity ____ | d. messy, scruffy |
| 5. dreaded ____ | e. famous for bad things |
| 6. irritated ____ | f. make obvious, explain |
| 7. disturbance ____ | g. penalties, effects |
| 8. unkempt ____ | h. turmoil, mayhem |
| 9. confusion ____ | i. noise, distraction |
| 10. spell out ____ | j. feared |

TRUE OR FALSE

- | | |
|--|-------|
| 1. Captain Horatio was Jason's father. | T / F |
| 2. Captain Fortner helped to free Captain Horatio. | T / F |
| 3. Pappy and Garold had a fight. | T / F |
| 4. Pappy took Captain Horatio rum and biscuits. | T / F |
| 5. The guards went to see the fight. | T / F |
| 6. Jason threw Captain Horatio's clothes into the sea. | T / F |
| 7. Henry Wellington acted drunk. | T / F |
| 8. Pappy and Garold took Jason off of the ship. | T / F |
| 9. Henry Wellington cut his hair and his beard. | T / F |
| 10. Henry Wellington disappeared into the night. | T / F |

MULTIPLE CHOICE:

1. How many guards were at the door of the guest room? _____
 - a) none
 - b) three
 - c) four
 - d) two

2. What did Jason put the bed sheets into? _____
 - a) clothes
 - b) hair
 - c) food
 - d) himself

3. Who took Henry Wellington off of the ship? _____
 - a) Pappy and Jason
 - b) Jason and Garold
 - c) He took himself
 - d) Pappy and Garold

4. Why did they say they were taking the man off the ship? _____
 - a) he was hungry
 - b) he needed to get back to his ship
 - c) he was too drunk
 - d) he was sleepy

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

1. How long had Jason's father been missing?

2. Who did Henry Wellington defeat to become Captain Horatio?

3. Who helped Jason in his father's escape?

4. Where was Captain Horatio held on the ship as a prisoner?

5. What things did they need to make the rescue successful?

6. What kind of food did Jason take to the guest room?

7. What did Pappy and Garold do to create the distraction?

8. What did Jason throw into the sea?

9. What did Pappy say when asked about the man they were carrying?

10. Where did Henry Wellington go?
