

A PIRATE ADVENTURE

CHAPTER 6



The Trial

Jason had the look of shock on his face. What was going on? How could this be? As far as he knew he had released his father. Had he been tricked?

Jason looked at the man they said was his father. He was thin and weak, and he could hardly lift his head.

Jason exclaimed at Admiral Montblue, “How do you know that this man is my father? Maybe someone is trying to fool you to make us look guilty!”

The thin man looked up, and asked, “Is that really you Jason?”

“It’s a trick. He’s not my father. My father.....” Jason stopped.

He sat down and closed his mouth.

“What is it you were going to say Jason?” the commodore asked him as he moved closer to him.

“Nothing,” Jason paused for a moment and then continued. “It’s just that he’s not my father. You are trying to trick us.”

The thin man walked over to Jason and stood in front of him. He looked closely at Jason and asked about his mother.

“Is your mother OK? How are your sister Janie and your brother Robert? Are they all OK?” the thin man asked as he looked into Jason’s eyes.

Jason didn’t know what to say. Tears began to fill his eyes, but he wasn’t going to fall for this trick.

The thin man looked at Pappy and said, “Pappy is that really you? I miss

your cooking. The food on the *Red Calypso* was always terrible.”

Pappy didn't look at him.

Then turning to Garold he said, “Is that you Garold my good friend? It's been a long time, hasn't it?”

None of them said a word, although one could see in their eyes that they knew they were caught in their lie.

“Does anyone have anything to say?” the commodore asked, as he went to his chair behind the desk and sat down.

The three sat in silence.

The admiral then looked directly at the three men.

“OK, now tell me what happened. It's obvious that you know your story is not true,” the admiral stated.

There was a period of silence when Jason finally began to speak.

“Well, sir, it was like this. When I went to Captain Horatio to give him his food, I asked him about my father. Pappy told me that five years ago Captain Horatio took him as a hostage. When I asked him to tell me about my father he told me a story that I believed.

“He told me about how my father had to fight his way to the top to stay alive. Part of that was to challenge the person in authority. He said that he finally had to challenge Captain Horatio. When he won, he took his place. I believed him and the three of us planned his escape. I haven't seen my father in five years, so I didn't know what he looked like. It's all my fault.”

Turning to his friends he pointed to them and said, “Pappy and Garold believed me when I told them that he was my father and that he promised to change,” Jason tried to explain how he and the other two had been fooled by the real Captain Horatio.

The admiral leaned forward.

“Thank you for your honesty son. I can see how all of this happened to you. I have one important question to ask you Jason. If you saw Captain Horatio

again, would you be able to recognize him?” the admiral asked.

“I believe so, but we did a good job of disguising him so he would look like an ordinary sailor,” Jason answered, as he shrugged his shoulders while he looked over at Pappy and Garold.

Suddenly, and to the surprise of everyone, the admiral stood up and pointed at Henry Wellington.

“Arrest that man!” the admiral ordered. “Take him to the brig and prepare him for trial. He will be tried for high treason against the crown. Take Captain Horatio away!”

The three detainees watched in surprise and fear as they took Henry Wellington away. Henry looked back at his son and friends as the soldiers led him out of the room.

“What have you done to me?” he asked, as he disappeared out the door.

There was a look of panic on the faces of the three sailors. They turned and faced toward the commodore not knowing what was next.

“Based on your testimony, this man, Henry Wellington, will be charged with pirateering, high treason against the crown and a menace to the high seas. He will be tried for his crimes, and if found guilty, he will be hanged,” the admiral informed Jason, Pappy, and Garold.

The admiral then turned to the men in front of him and said in a strong voice, “Guards! Arrest these men for treason against the crown!” the commodore ordered the sentries to arrest them.

The three sailors jumped in surprise. Now, were they going to be arrested as well?

The admiral added, “You are going to be tried for treason. If you are found guilty, you too will be hanged by the neck until you’re dead. I’m tired of all of this. I’m going to my room.”

Then he got up from his chair and left the room by a side door.

Jason, Pappy and Garold stood up, and the sentries escorted them out of

the room. They took them down the stairs and out of the building. The people outside of the building were surprised. They had no idea who these new prisoners were. People began to talk.

“Could they be pirates?”

“Could they be thieves?”

Stories spread around the town about the three.

When word got back to the *New Hope*, the crew realized that the prisoners were Jason, Pappy and Garold. They were wondering why the three had been arrested. The crew of the *New Hope* talked about what they thought might have happened. Each one had his own story. None were true, but they all sounded good.

Later that day soldiers posted notices on the street lamps stating that the dreaded Captain Horatio was captured and that three conspirators had been arrested. The announcement said the next day the trial would begin. The trial was going to be in the courthouse. A tribunal of military officers would preside over the hearing.

The next day the prisoners were brought to the courthouse.

Jason didn't look well. He hadn't slept and his clothes were a mess. Pappy and Garold didn't look any better.

The guards took them down the street and led them into the courthouse. The people along the way yelled things at them and tried to throw rocks. Many of the people from the town had a story to tell about a loved one who had had a bad experience with Captain Horatio at some point in the past.

When they entered the courthouse, the place was filled with people. Some had slept on the steps in order to get a place to sit. There was a lot of noise. When the people inside saw the prisoners come in, they began to yell at them. The guards had to hold the people back.

On the right side of the court room there was a box for the prisoners to sit in. Three chairs were set inside. To the left was another single chair but outside of the box because the box wasn't big enough for four chairs.

The chains between the three prisoners were very heavy. They made a loud noise when they walked. Jason's arm was hanging low from the weight. He was glad to sit down and place his arm in his lap.

Jason looked out at the people. They were angry and were shouting bad things at him. He didn't like it at all. He wanted to cry, but Pappy told him to be strong.

Suddenly the noise became louder. From a side door, the person the people thought was Captain Horatio entered the courtroom. The sentries in the courthouse had trouble keeping the people from attacking him. Henry's face showed the fear he was feeling at being threatened. He looked confused. He turned to the guard and tried to go back through the door, but the guard pushed him forward toward his seat next to box where Jason was sitting.

The people laughed at him for being such a coward. They expected the dreaded Captain Horatio to be bold and brave.

Henry took his seat and looked over at Jason. The guards said not to speak. Henry's eyes were full of tears. What had he done to deserve this?

"ALL RISE!" came the command from the court bailiff. "Silence in the court. Anyone who speaks will be removed from the court immediately!"

The first of the judges came into the court, followed by the other two. They sat behind a long bench at the front of the court. They had on long white wigs and their best military uniforms. They looked over the papers in front of them for a long time. They whispered some things to each other.

Then the first judge called the hearing to order by taking his gavel and striking the table in front of him.

The bailiff yelled out, "This court is now in order."

Jason looked out onto the crowd. He didn't see a single familiar face. None of the crewmembers from the *New Hope* was there to support them.

"Bailiff, please read the charges against these men," the first judge directed the bailiff.

The bailiff turned and made his first statement to Jason. "Jason Wellington, you are charged with treason against the crown. How do you plead?"

The guard prompted Jason to stand up. He replied, "Not guilty, sir."

"Pappy Stonehagen, you are charged with treason against the crown. How do you plead?" the bailiff repeated.

Pappy stood up and replied, "Not Guilty."

"Garold Lawson, you are charged with treason against the crown. How do you plead?" the bailiff directed his statement to Garold.

Garold stood up and said, "I didn't do it!"

The crowd laughed. The judge slammed his gavel against the desk and ordered, "SILENCE!"

It took a minute before the crowd became silent again.

"And you, Captain Horatio, you are charged with pirateering, murders, theft and high treason against the crown. How do you plead?" the bailiff asked Henry.

Henry stood up and looked at the crowd of people. He paused before he softly said, "Not guilty your honors."

Then they all sat down.

"Jason Wellington, come forward and take the seat here at the front of the court," the bailiff directed Jason. The guard released the lock from his chains so he could go to the seat next to the judges at the front of the room.

Jason walked slowly to the front of the court. He looked back at the crowd, and then when he got to the place where they wanted him to sit, he stood behind the wooden railing. The bailiff asked him to swear that he would tell the truth.

After he said, "I do," he sat down.

Next to him was Admiral Montblue.

The admiral leaned over and whispered something into Jason's ear. Jason nodded and then looked out into the crowd. He saw many angry faces looking at him. He looked over at his father. He felt ashamed that he had gotten him into this

situation. When he looked back at the crowd he noticed something.

Jason stood up and yelled as loud as he could, “There he is. That’s Captain Horatio. He’s right there.”

He pointed at a man in the middle of the crowd. The man stood up in surprise. He tried to run, but a soldier, followed by several others, pulled him to the ground.

When the man got to his feet, he glared at Jason. The real Captain Horatio said something to Jason, but he couldn’t hear it because of all of the noise in the court.

Jason looked at the admiral who winked at him. The trap had worked.

Later, in the admiral’s chamber, he explained to Jason, Pappy and Garold that he had had a pretty good idea that Captain Horatio would not be able to resist watching another man be convicted for him. They were sure that Jason would be able to pick him out from the crowd. That is what the admiral had whispered to Jason.

The admiral was still not happy with what the three had done, but he was thankful that in the end Captain Horatio would be tried and hanged for what he had done.

“Here is the punishment I have decided to hand down for your actions. Pappy and Garold you are to serve four years on a navy ship. You will do your normal duties. You will serve under the command of Commodore Fortner. He has been promoted and has been assigned to the *Intrepid* as its new captain.

“As for you Jason Wellington, you will serve six years on a navy ship, but we must wait until you are old enough. You will be promoted to the rank of ensign and serve as an officer. Some day you may become a captain of your own ship, only time will tell.

“Henry Wellington. I’m so sorry for all that you have been through. I am sending you and your son home to be with your family. In gratitude to you we are giving you a pension so that you may retire. I hope you will train your son up to be

a good officer.

“You are all now dismissed,” the admiral smiled as he got up from his desk, shook the hands of each of the sailors and then left the room.

The End

VOCABULARY (*Match the word to its definition*)

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. fault _____ | a. costume |
| 2. honesty _____ | b. tell what happened |
| 3. disguise _____ | c. let go, released |
| 4. arrest _____ | d. truthfulness, integrity |
| 5. panic _____ | e. retirement payments |
| 6. testimony _____ | f. extreme fear |
| 7. escort _____ | g. accomplices, helpers |
| 8. conspirators _____ | h. responsibility, mistake |
| 9. pension _____ | i. detain, capture |
| 10. dismissed _____ | j. lead away |

TRUE OR FALSE

- | | |
|--|-------|
| 1. Henry recognized Pappy and Garold. | T / F |
| 2. Henry liked Pappy's cooking. | T / F |
| 3. Jason was allowed to go when Pappy and Garold weren't. | T / F |
| 4. Henry Wellington was arrested for treason. | T / F |
| 5. Admiral Montblue asked many questions. | T / F |
| 6. Pappy got up and hugged Henry. | T / F |
| 7. Jason thought that Admiral Montblue believed his story. | T / F |
| 8. Henry was put on trial for treason. | T / F |
| 9. Jason recognized and pointed at the real Captain Horatio. | T / F |
| 10. Captain Horatio got away again. | T / F |

MULTIPLE CHOICE:

1. Jason's father looked what? _____
 - a) fat
 - b) thin
 - c) happy
 - d) good

2. Henry asked Jason about whom? _____
 - a) his family
 - b) Captain Fortner
 - c) Mr. Garnes
 - d) his father

3. What did Admiral Montblue yell when he stood up? _____
 - a) "Arrest that man!"
 - b) "Let him go!"
 - c) "Bring me my lunch!"
 - d) "Kill all of them!"

4. At whom did Jason point at in the trial? _____
 - a) Commodore Howe
 - b) Admiral Montblue
 - c) Captain Horatio
 - d) the judge

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

1. What did Jason say was a trick?

2. What did Henry tell Pappy?

3. What had Captain Horatio told Jason about who his father was?

4. Who was arrested for treason?

5. What did the townspeople say about the three prisoners?

6. What was the food like on the *Red Calypso*?

7. What connected the tree prisoners as they entered the courtroom?

8. How many chairs were in the box?

9. Who sat next to Jason when he went to the front of the courtroom?

10. Who did Jason point at?
