

## 48 Hours 181

### Chapter 181: A Sudden Storm

The torrential rain fell faster than everyone's expectations. Worried about the Quidah's newly repaired hull, Black Sam didn't stay too long on the Jackdaw. However, as soon as he got into the boat that was supposed to bring him back to his ship, rain started pouring from the skies with a fury, and the sea started to swell.

Bright, menacing whips of lightning flashed across the dark sky, followed by deafening claps of thunder. The sights and sounds were nothing less of apocalyptic, and seemed as if the world was coming to an end.

Both ships were less than 30 meters apart, but it took Black Sam a solid ten minutes of hard rowing against before he got to his ship. As they were climbing up the vessel, one of his men fell overboard and was swept away by a massive wave.

There was nothing that the other pirates on the Quidah could do; all they could do was watch as their companion disappeared into the depths of the turbulent ocean. It was impossible to rescue anyone in such unforgiving weather.

On the other ship, Zhang Heng did not retreat to the captain's quarters. He stood at the bow of the Jackdaw next to Billy, who was busy directing the crew to prepare for the storm.

A frown hung above Zhang Heng's eyes. His opinions about the weather differed from Black Sam, who probably thought nothing more about the weather other than its sudden emergence. Zhang Heng had some knowledge about gybing, something he learned from Roscoe, who had also taught him how to read the winds and predict the weather.

Whilst not as accurate as the old pirate in terms of forecasting weather, his conjecture about this abrupt meteorological change was at least eighty percent right. The storm had emerged so abruptly and without warning. Just a minute ago, the sky was still clear and cloudless. Based on the experience Roscoe had relayed to him, the sea should have been calm until the night.

In a matter of ten minutes, however, the weather changed drastically. Zhang Heng had only encountered this situation once, and that was when the carrack appeared. However, the wind and waves were not as wild as it was right now, Today, the sea was like an outraged monster, battering one giant wave after another against the ship.

Zhang Heng held onto a rope with one hand to steady himself, and with the other, he pulled out the bronze telescope he carried. First, he looked toward Black Sam's direction. The Quidah was bustling, with their sailors running frantically to hunker everything down. However, everything seemed under control for now, so Zhang Heng looked further out.

To his greatest surprise, he did not see the ghost ship from a century ago. On the contrary, as fast as it appeared, the terrifying storm began to subside. The waves gradually became smaller, and the raindrops slowed to a drizzle. In a mere five minutes, the sun peered from the clouds, and the waters resumed their earlier calm. The dark clouds that had hung over their heads like an ominous veil had all but disappeared.

And just like that, the ordeal lasted a short twenty minutes. Even the absent-minded Anne found it incredulous. When the rain finally stopped, she shook the rain off her drenched hair and said, "What is this? Some kind of joke?"

Zhang Heng was just as baffled, but as a precaution, the first thing he did was to examine the two boxes of silverware in the storeroom. However, he found nothing unusual. He then picked up the ring and the necklace from the drawer. Again, he did not get any prompts from the system.

Was it merely a coincidence?

There was no way to be certain. He kept having his nagging feeling that he'd missed something about that carrack, but he had nothing to go on. He would just have to wait for Vincent to complete the translation of the notebooks to see if he could get more information from them.

For most people, this sudden storm burst was just a brief interlude in a lengthy voyage. Very soon, the pirates on the ship turned their attention to other things, such as the person who always slipped into the kitchen at night stealing bread, or where they should go once they docked.

The Jackdaw was drawing closer and closer to Nassau, and Zhang Heng had no inkling that another storm awaited him on the shore.

Carina's secondhand business was blooming on the island. There was never a shortage of pirates at the warehouse's doorstep. On top of that, she possessed an uncanny boldness and willfulness that was uncommon for her gender at that time. She never turned away used goods. As long as they weren't completely worthless, the tradeswoman was willing to purchase it. This won her the favor of the smaller pirate gangs.

Captain Malone bid goodbye to his time in the brothel and resumed his busy life. The Gentle Breeze started to travel back and forth from Nassau to the colony's port, exchanging covertly acquired goods for bags of gold coins. Although most of the income was used to subsidize the secondhand business, Carina offered a very high price, and it turned out to be ideal in terms of profit. This was nothing like the time when her father, Fegan, was on the island.

Nevertheless, they were all still profitable. At least everyone was not bored out of their minds when the Jackdaw went out to sea.

However, nothing lasted forever; for all good things, at least. Not long after that, the secret about Carina using the secondhand business to cover-up the under table trade was soon exposed. In a single night, the news was made known throughout the entire island.

It was followed by the news about her father being detained in the colony. This wasn't a secret among the black-market merchants, though. Some of the more well-informed people on the island heard about it too, but the fact that it was so suddenly made public told of a malicious intention behind it.

The captains who traded with Carina were getting overwrought, having only wanted to earn some extra money. Of course, they did not want to be tied to this sinking ship that was Carina. Every one of them insisted that it wasn't their men who had exposed the secrets. They even suspected that Carina herself

was the one who did it. They believed that if their relationship with the black-market alliance was ruined, the one benefiting from it at the end of the day was Carina.

Carina had to personally go up to each of them, attempting to convince them that their black-market alliance wouldn't fulfill the sanctions on the statement. Doing that would just be pushing the pirates to her side. In the end, however, only two captains agreed that if Carina could solve the problem of the leak, they would continue doing business with her.

Malone shook his head. "There's no way to solve this problem. We've already done a fine job here. We had people guard the warehouse, and even our sailors didn't know what cargo we hauled on each trip. There's no way the leak came from our side. The other pirates, on the other hand, are mouthy. As the saying goes, never trust pirates to keep secrets—especially when they are drunk."

Carina shook her head in protest. "Most of their men didn't know that they sold the goods to us. This must be the work of our trusted aides. Everyone else only cares about the money that they would get in the end. The black-market alliance might have caught wind of it, but they couldn't have investigated it that quickly."

## **Chapter 182: Smoked Fish Alley**

Carina walked toward the horse carriage, with Malone opening the door for her. Suddenly, she stopped and did not enter the carriage. Looking at the coffee shop opposite her, she spotted Malcolm having his lunch. He invited her to join him by signaling her with his hand.

After a short moment of hesitation, Carina walked towards the coffee shop. Malone wanted to follow her but was stopped by two muscular men that seemed to be guarding the shop. Malone was worried about her, but she simply nodded at him, indicating that everything was fine.

"What do you want to eat?" asked Malcolm while cutting his fried egg with a knife.

"I recommend the coffee and tuna sandwich. They are quite good."

"I will order whatever you ordered."

"Those who know me well know that I dislike those who say no to my suggestions. I want to have another cup of coffee, a fried egg, and a tuna sandwich," said Malcolm to the waiter.

Carina only responded with a smile.

"I have stayed in Nassau for quite some time now, but I've never really walked around town. I had no idea that there's a coffee shop here."

"I don't blame you. On normal days, this coffee shop remains closed. It's only open for business when I'm here. Sitting here makes me feel like I'm back in the modern world."

"I would have fallen in love with you if you were ten years younger."

"I have known your father Fegan for some time, but I didn't know he's got such an excellent daughter. When you first appeared in front of me, I thought that you were some kind of scammer. Now, I believe

that you are your father's daughter. Both of you share the same qualities. Once you have a goal in mind, you will never give up until you achieve it."

Malcolm placed some fried egg into his mouth and sipped his coffee.

"Perhaps it's because we don't have the right to give up on life."

Carina thanked the waiter that brought her coffee.

"Are you still angry at me for what happened when you first came to this island?"

"Should I be angry at you?"

"Even a man like me isn't allowed to do whatever I want to do."

Malcolm put down the cutlery and cleaned his hand with a napkin.

"To be precise, this position that I'm in doesn't allow me to do whatever I want. Outsiders might see that the black-market alliance is mighty, but nobody knows that it was no easy task forming this alliance. We had to face all kinds of threats from outside and within the alliance. We had to compromise so much."

"I'm sorry, but what does this have to do with me? I have acquired what you people have refused to give me. Right now, I don't need anyone's pity. I don't care about the effort that you put in to form the alliance. I don't care how much it means to you. I would ask you to stop wasting your time if you plan to take advantage of my emotions! I'm not as free as you. I have other things to deal with. Goodbye."

After that, Carina was about to leave the coffee shop.

"Do you not care about your father as well?"

Carina stopped walking and was instantly filled with anger. However, she managed to control her emotions when she thought about what Laeli was doing right now. She turned around and tried her best to sound as calm as possible.

"My father?"

"I'm so sorry for what happened to him. An uncle of mine is close to Count Slaughter. Maybe I can ask him to release your father as early as possible. I think you want him to be free, right?" asked Malcolm while looking straight into Carina's eyes.

"What's will it cost me?"

"Leave Nassau right now. I think you had earned quite enough from selling those spices. This amount of money is enough for you and your father to start afresh elsewhere. And the money that you will earn from your new business should be able to feed your family."

Just when Carina was about to react, Malcolm put up his finger.

“This is not a trade. Because of your father, I’m willing to grant you a final chance to redeem yourself. I want to resolve this matter peacefully. You should know that better than anyone else. Whatever you’re doing right now, it won’t last long. And my patience has a limit.”

“What if I say no?” asked Carina after a short moment of silence.

“Maybe I have underestimated you. All the while, I thought you’ve come to Nassau to earn enough money to set your father free. You are now treating this whole thing as your business, right? Unfortunately, this is not the right time for you to do something like this. I have changed my mind, and I don’t want to keep dragging this matter. The time of games and chatting with you are over. Bad things are going to happen to you if you refuse to leave Nassau.”

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15 minutes later, Carina came out of the coffee shop.

“How’s everything? Did he do anything to you?” asked Malone.

“Same old same old. Malcolm thought that I’m still a little girl. He thought that he could threaten me to leave Nassau. Let’s ignore him. The Jackdaw should be back soon as well. We need to do what we need to do before they come back. There are still some items in the storage. I will need you to sell all it as soon as possible.”

“I have restocked the ship with new supplies. I think I can move all those things to our ship and leave Nassau before the sky turns dark.”

“Great. You can prepare to set sail right now. I have to make a trip to Smoked Fish Alley. Let’s part ways here,” said Carina as she sat in the carriage.

“Should we go together? I don’t need the whole afternoon to do what I need to do. Smoked Fish Alley is a lawless hellhole with thugs, and thieves are everywhere. I don’t think a young woman like you should travel there alone.”

“Don’t worry. I have a friend over there. Please be careful, Uncle Malone.”

After that, Carina closed the door and left the place.

“I should be the one telling you to be careful,” said Malone.

Half an hour later, the carriage stopped in an alley, and Carina stepped out. A couple of thugs immediately whistled at her. Although she looked calm when she talked to Malone earlier, she was actually worried about her safety. When she thought about the way she handled Malcolm’s threats, there was no way she would be scared off by a couple of low-life thugs.

So, Carina took in a deep breath and walked into the alley. After walking a short distance, she crossed paths with some kids. This time, they deliberately spilled some squid ink on her shirt. Left in frustration, Carina took out her handkerchief, attempting to wipe off the ink, but to no avail. It was at that time when she realized that the thugs she encountered earlier were following her.

**Chapter 183: Slaughterhouse’s Owner**

Carina started to get nervous when she saw a couple of people staring at her with sly smiles on their faces. Unconsciously, she took two steps back. There were others too in this small alley, but none of them had the intention to help as they were used to these things happening around them. Poverty had made them numb with their surroundings.

Before the leader of the thugs could say anything to Carina, a black shadow covered him, and his smile froze.

“Cauchy?”

“She’s my guest, Andy,” said the black man that looked as strong as a bull.

The other young thugs looked at each other, and their leader named Andy quickly put both his arms up.

“This is all just a misunderstanding, Cauchy. We’ll never harm your guests,” said Andy with a wide grin on his freckled face.

After that, the young thugs quickly fled the scene.

“Thank you.”

“Don’t thank me first. Check if your pouch is still with you.”

Immediately, Carina checked her pockets and was unable to locate her pouch.

“That bunch of kids!!!” exclaimed a shocked Carina.

“Don’t worry. I know where they are. I will help you get your money back. Let’s go. He’s waiting for you.”

Andy then brought Carina to the slaughterhouse. Several workers were busy slaughtering pigs in front of them. None of them seemed to care about Andy and Carina entering the slaughterhouse. After that, Carina followed Cauchy to go to the basement, and she finally met up with Laeli. The last time they both met was about a month ago. Zhang Heng had given Carina some money and asked her to pass it to Laeli. Laeli went dark after that, right up until two days ago. He was the one who had taken the initiative to contact Carina.

“Thank you, Cauchy.”

The boss of the slaughterhouse nodded at Laeli and left the basement.

“Cauchy is not from my tribe, but he is someone I can trust. No one dares mess with him in this street. He’s helped me out a lot recently. I’m so sorry that we have to meet here in this basement. Malcolm is a very cautious person, but he has a weakness as well. He usually focuses on the enemies that could affect him more. He would spend hours studying your behavior, pattern, background, and even your childhood. He is determined to look for the most effective ways to crush you, people. Captain Zhang Heng and you seem to have become worthy enemies for him.

“However, there’s only so much he can do. When Malcolm focuses on one thing, he will not care about all the other unimportant enemies around him. For example, the slaves and me from Terrance’s

Mansion; we've become no different from the trees around us. He no longer cares about me the moment I was dragged out from the banquet hall. The supervisor would also never tell him that he sold me to Zhang Heng. However, if he finds out that I've been talking to you, he will realize that I'm still alive. From there, he will start to assess all the possible threats that I can bring to him. This could cause me a lot of trouble."

"I can understand that."

"Let's talk about your father."

Laeli was back to the topic that he wanted to discuss with Carina after explaining to her why he chose to meet up with her in this basement.

"I have used my methods to contact my people in the mansion. Just like what I told you earlier, my people do not matter to Malcolm. To be honest, there's nothing they can help me with. All the young muscles are stuck at the farms and orchards, and most female servants are tasked with the cleaning and reception work. It's not possible that they would come across anything valuable. However, there's one exception. Her name is Leah."

"Leah?"

"She's one special kid. She managed to differentiate herself from the others even when she was still in the tribe. Malcolm must have found out about how special she was as well. So, he focused on grooming her. He didn't ask her to entertain the guests like the other female slaves. Not only did he teach her to speak other languages, but he even hired someone to teach her how to read. After that, she was tasked with settling Malcolm's paperwork. For example, she would be asked to write some greeting letters and invitation letters. Every Saturday, Leah was asked to clean his study. No one is allowed to enter the room except for him and Leah."

"Anyway, I have managed to contact Leah. She's agreed to help us search for evidence that Malcolm was behind your father getting into jail. However, she's only allowed to clean Malcolm's study for no longer than 15 minutes. So, she has to finish her task first before searching the room. She has to make sure that the guards won't notice anything fishy as well. That's why she needed a long time to find something useful for you."

Laeli then produced a letter.

"I don't know what's written in this, but Leah told me that it could help you guys."

Carina took the letter, and her face changed the moment she read it. It's contents were relatively simple. Sent from Malcolm's family, everything that was written on it sounded somewhat vague. It invited Count Slaughter to dine at his place, and that the problem had been dealt with. The letter was sent precisely half a month after Carina's father was put in jail. After connecting with what Laeli heard from Malcolm, Carina confirmed that Malcolm did indeed have something do with her father's imprisonment.

"Can this letter help you bring them down?" asked Laeli.

Carina had to try her best to overcome her blinding rage.

“This letter might be able to bring him some trouble, but it’s not enough. We need more solid evidence to prove that he was the one who had put my father in jail.”

After a short moment of hesitation, Carina returned the letter to Laeli.

“Put this letter back to where it belongs. I don’t want Leah to get into trouble.”

“Don’t worry. We are close. I will ask Leah to continue searching for more solid evidence. Once I find something useful, I will contact you again,” said Laeli.

“Please ask her to be careful. By the way, is the money enough? Do you still need more?”

“I still have more than half of it, miss.”

“Come and look for me if you need more money.”

At that, Cauchy returned her pouch to her before she left the slaughterhouse. He even escorted her out of Smoked Fish Alley. After thanking him, Carina went to look for Malone in her horse carriage. When she saw boxes of items being moved to the Gentle Breeze, she felt a sense of uneasiness looming over her.

#### **Chapter 184: Give Me A Price**

Seven days had passed since Malcolm threatened Carina to leave Nassau. Even though she seemed calm and composed in front of others, she was actually terribly distraught. That said, nothing wrong happened to her for the past few days.

There was still a line in front of the storage that Carina rented, with throngs of people forming long lines to sell their secondhand goods to her. The captains that secretly traded with her received no warning from the black-market alliance as well. This had woken them up from their dormant state, and they started to believe everything Carina told them. It seemed that Malcolm had no intention to deal with this matter. Carina was now officially the enemy of the black-market alliance. As a result, the captains from different pirate ships started to visit Carina secretly again.

Just when everything seemed to be looking up, something awful was about to happen to Carina.

One night, Carina woke up from a dream. She did not even have the time to wear something proper, hurriedly donning on her pajamas, and running to the port barefooted. It was late at night, but a large number of people had gathered around the beach. Honegg, the person tasked with defending the island, and his people, were confronting a group of new pirates that had just entered Nassau.

However, the crowd wasn’t paying any attention to them. They were looking at the two ships that were docked at the harbor, never having seen these two barques in Nassau before. The pirates that disembarked were new around this area as well. The vessels’ sturdy hulls, massive cannons, and black flags were proof that they were indeed pirates. And they were powerful.

Previously, some new pirates landed in Nassau. As it became increasingly famous, more and more pirates visited Nassau to purchase supplies for their ships. Technically, the constant arrival of new pirates shouldn’t have been too surprising to residents of Nassau. However, this group acted differently

than all the other new pirates that they encountered before. This bunch was so arrogant that they fired their cannons twice on the empty beach before docking their ships at the harbor! Luckily, no one was on the beach when the shots landed. Still, many were shocked by the audacity of the new bunch.

“Who’s the captain?” asked Honegg.

A man sporting a mermaid tattoo on his arms was instructing two of his men to plant two wooden logs on the beach. Once he heard Honegg was looking for the captain, he walked up toward him.

“How should I address you?”

“Captain Wilton. You can call me Wilton. However, merchants that I’ve robbed before prefer to call me the Executioner.”

At that, Wilton drew his dagger from his waist. Immediately, Honegg’s men pulled out their guns as well. Wilton simply smiled, took out an apple, and used the blade to peel off the skin of the fruit.

“The Executioner? I have never heard of this title before,” answered Honegg.

“Well, I don’t blame you. That’s because I kill everyone on the ships I plunder. All those who know my name happens to be dead.”

He bragged about carrying out his ruthless and brutal endeavors in an extremely casual way. By the look on his face, it seemed that he enjoyed what he did. Even experienced pirates felt sick to the stomach after hearing what he said. Honegg was once the elder of Nassau and gained fame when Blackbeard and Black Prince Sam made a name for themselves. It surely wasn’t easy to put fear in a man the likes of him.

“I don’t care who you are and where you came from. If you dare fire your cannons on my island again, I will make sure your story ends here!”

To everyone’s surprise, Wilton put down his dagger and began acting more politely.

“This is our first time here. Forgive us if we failed to acknowledge the rules of the place. I’m willing to apologize if I have offended you in any way. I have always heard people talking about Nassau. The truth is, we are just here to check out this place known as the hometown of pirates.”

Seeing that Wilton was willing to play nice, Honegg asked his men to stand down immediately.

“Nassau is a land of freedom. As long as you don’t cause any trouble here, you are welcome to stay.”

Just when Honegg was about to leave the port, someone called out to his name.

“Captain Honegg, I remember there’s a rule here stating that pirates are now allowed to plunder the ships of the black-market merchants, right?” asked Carina.

Now, she was worried about the Gentle Breeze. Supposedly, the vessel should be in North Carolina right now, but instead, it was in between the two new pirate ships that just landed in Nassau. Previously, she had been informed that the Gentle Breeze returned to Nassau with two unfamiliar pirate ships. There could be only one possibility if the Gentle Breeze returned to Nassau before the expected time. They

must have been plundered by other pirates. That explained why she was so anxious. The ship's goods were not as important. She cared more about the safety of Malone and his sailors.

Honegg then stopped in his tracks. He, too, noticed that the Gentle Breeze was between the two new pirate ships.

"Did you guys rob her ship?"

"Well, we are pirates. It's only right that we plunder other ships, right?"

"You better return the ship to her," scowled Honegg while looking at Carina.

"What if we refuse to return it to her?"

"Then, you guys won't be able to sell your loot to her."

"Thank you for your gentle reminder. I think we can figure out a way to solve this problem."

After that, Honegg did not say a single word. Carina ran up to him immediately and stopped him from leaving.

"Just like that?" whispered a shocked Carina.

"The black-market merchants are part of the black-market alliance, right? This isn't under my jurisdiction. You should go ask for the help of your alliance. Technically, they didn't break any rules. They weren't considered pirates of Nassau when they plundered your ship."

Honegg lifted Carina's hand that was tightly grabbing his sleeve.

"I'm sorry. My only responsibility is to make sure that the island is safe. Your problem is not part of that responsibility."

Seeing Honegg walking away, Carina felt helpless. She then took a look at everyone around her. Most who were present here had sold items to her before. They quickly looked away when they saw that she was trying to look for help, knowing that it was probably a bad idea to mess with men, the likes of Wilton, and his cohorts. Although ignoring her pleas would impede any opportunity for future business, it was better than dying right now.

Carina did not expect Wilton to be the first to talk after she looking at the crowd.

"Is that your ship?"

"I never thought that the second-in-command of the black-market alliance would play such dirty tricks to force me off Nassau. Let me warn you. If anything happens to my men, I will..."

She was interrupted before she could finish her sentence.

"I don't know what the hell the black-market alliance is. I don't care about your quarrels with that alliance as well. I'm simply glad I found the owner of the ship. Let's talk business."

"Hold on. You plundered my ship, and you dare talk business with me?" replied Carina with a burst of laughter.

“Why not? We have to sell the loot that we acquired anyway. I have a batch of special items with me. I think you might be interested in purchasing them.”

Wilton clapped his hands, and the pirates behind him quickly rowed to the Gentle Breeze. This time, they returned with another four men. Carina instantly recognized that the captives were indeed the crew of the Gentle Breeze. Their hands and feet were bound tightly. Seeing that they were alive and well, Carina was slightly relieved. However, what Wilton told her next almost caused her to flip in anger.

“Ah... my loot is here. What would you offer me for these?”

### **Chapter 185: Not For Sale**

Wilton looked at Carina. “What is it? Don’t you want them?”

Carina simply bit her lip, not saying anything.

“It’s no problem. We’re all civilized people—we don’t force anyone to do business with us, miss.” Wilton waved his hand, and immediately, one of his men grabbed a Gentle Breeze sailor, dragged him to a wooden pole, and tied the helpless man to it.

Wilton took one last bite from the apple and threw the core on the ground. He wiped his hand on his clothes before taking out his dagger again.

“What are you doing?” gasped Carina as she felt a sinking feeling in the pit of her stomach.

“Did you know, ever since I was a kid, I’ve always been curious about the inner workings of the human body?” Wilton pried the sailor’s shirt open with his knife.

The poor freckled boy was only around sixteen to seventeen years of age. Carina remembered him. He was called Booker, and her uncle had recommended him some time ago. The two worked together on the Gentle Breeze. Booker was a cheerful lad who always wore a pleasant smile on his face. Right now, however, he looked terrified, more so when the knife slithered down his chest.

“What do you want?!” Carina hissed.

Wilton smiled slyly, letting the blade linger on the boy’s abdomen. “As I said, I just want to make a deal that’s mutually consented.”

Carina’s eyes looked like they were about to burst into flames, but there was nothing she could do—Wilton had two pirate ships and around 200 men while she was all alone. There was this one guy who reported this to her, but he was just a docker at the exchange of secondhand goods. Carina had no other choice but to agree to Wilton’s terms.

“How much do you want?” sighed Carina, eventually giving in.

“That’s more like it. If only you said this earlier, then there wouldn’t have been any problems, eh?” Wilton kept smiling as he put his knife away. Just when everyone thought that the danger had passed, Wilton suddenly swung around, and something in his hands flashed. Before anyone could react, he plunged the blade into Booker’s stomach!

Booker howled in pain, and a look of wild excitement flashed across Wilton's demented face. Instead of pulling away, he shoved the knife upwards until finally, the boy's stomach was sliced open, his guts spilling out like a crushed snail.

Never in her entire life had Carina ever witnessed such barbaric savagery. She instinctively covered her mouth, mind saturated with fear.

When she was younger, Carina had her fair share of pirate-related horror stories. The civilized world regarded these men who roamed the seas as beasts and thugs. When she came to Nassau, however, she realized that the truth couldn't be further from the tales she heard. Pirates were humans too, and of course, they had feelings. In fact, most of them were very reasonable, where some were even smart and polished like Zhang Heng.

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So, her impression of pirates was reversed entirely; that was until Wilton showed up and reignited the terrifying impression of pirates buried deep in her mind.

Fresh, warm blood dripped from the knife and Wilton's right arm. He stepped backward and tilted his head as if admiring his handiwork. "It's fascinating. Did you know that even if a person's stomach is cut open, they won't die immediately?"

When Carina looked at him again, her demeanor had completely changed. She asked in a shaky voice, "Haven't I already agreed?"

"Yeah, except for this one," Wilton answered as he wiped the blood off the blade with a handkerchief. "This is not for sale. After all, other than making money, I have to find some way to have my fun, right?"

Wilton flashed his teeth at Carina. Next to him, Booker's cries were getting weaker and weaker. Wilton's soulless smile would make anyone's blood run cold.

"Don't worry. I won't ask for an unreasonable price. Right now, a strapping black slave is worth five gold coins. I'll sell these very experienced sailors to you for only ten gold coins. The captain is worth twofold. I think that's a very fair price. Apart from the four of these here, there are also twenty-eight men on the ship. That makes thirty-two people in total. Oops... it's now thirty-one. So, that's a total of three hundred and twenty gold coins."

Carina tried to calm herself, but she could hear her voice trembling whenever she spoke. "I don't have that much money on me right now."

"That's going to be a problem," smirked Wilton with a cocked eyebrow. "Tsk, tsk. I've given you an excellent price. I'm afraid I cannot do any better. But, if you really don't have enough, you can consider buying half of them. I can present the goods to you for you to pick whichever you like. What do you think? It all sounds pretty good, right? You get to decide their fate, and the ones you select will be eternally grateful to you. As for those who remain..."

Wilton paused for a second. "They will hate you, of course. But nevermind that. I will help you solve this problem. Consider it a value-added service for the transaction."

"No, I want them all—not one less," Carina insisted.

“Didn’t I make myself clear? Depending on how many coins you give me, that’s how many people you’ll get. There’s no room for bargaining here,” Wilton shook his head.

“I may not have that much money, but I have a piece of property in the colony. Give me some time; I will get you your money.”

Carina felt wholly dejected and humiliated. Not only had her ship been so rudely snatched away from her, but one of her crew had been tortured and mauled before her eyes. Right now, she was forced to agree to the trade, and even begged Wilton to give her time to amass the ransom.

Wilton rubbed his chin as he considered Carina’s offer. After a while, he walked up to her, used his knife to pick up a lock of her hair, and leaned in to sniff it.

Carina felt goosebumps all over her body. After what he did to Booker, who knew what the madman would do next. Carina stayed as still as she could, eyes closed and praying that the ordeal would be over soon.

After half a minute, his demonish voice echoed in her ears, “It’s our first time here, and we are not very familiar with this place. It just so happens that we need a guide. How about this, you become our guide, and I will agree to your request.”

“Who do you think I am?!” Carina’s eyes flew open, shocked, and outraged. “A prostitute from one of those brothels?!!”

“It doesn’t matter. A virgin comes with its own advantage. If you serve us well enough, who knows, I might even return that cargo ship of yours.”

Carina was shaking even more violently now, unable to tell if it was from her anger or fear.

Just as she was about to give up all hope, a familiar came from behind Wilton.

“I don’t think she likes having strangers being so close to her.”

## **Chapter 186: Ceasefire**

While everyone was attracted to the drama on the beach, none of them noticed that the Jackdaw and the Quidah were back in Nassau. Standing on the deck, Zhang Heng saw the lights and the large crowd that had gathered. At first, he didn’t pay too much attention, but after he moored his Jackdaw, he rowed to the port with Anne, Billy, and the other two pirates. He quickly noticed the Gentle Breeze’s odd position and the two unfamiliar barques docked there.

Zhang Heng started to realize that something must have gone very wrong. Even before the small boat reached the port, he saw the captured sailors from the Gentle Breeze and the dead Booker. He frowned as he whispered something to Billy, who then nodded and returned to the Jackdaw with the other two pirates after dropping off Zhang Heng and Anne at the port.

Stepping on the soft sand, Zhang Heng stepped up toward Carina as the crowd parted automatically, opening a way for him.

"I'm sorry but who the hell are you?" asked Wilton.

"I'm Zhang Heng, captain of the Jackdaw."

"So? Does this have anything to do with you?"

"Miss Carina is my trading partner on this island, and she is my friend as well."

"Oh. I understand now. I'm afraid that you will have to look for a new trading partner. That's because she doesn't own a ship now and she has lost her people. Plus! She owes me a huge amount of money! I'm asking her to be our guide on this island. I might consider sparing the life of her men if she can... well... please me."

Carina could no longer hold back her rage, landing a hard slap on Wilton's face. Wilton touched his face and stared at Carina. As she glanced at his lewd gawks, she unconsciously took two steps back. Wilton was also smiling. Instead of calming her down, she grew even more apprehensive of him.

"It seems like Miss Carina is still living in a dream. It's time to wake her up," said Wilton to his pirates.

Immediately, his pirates took down Booker's bloody corpse from the wooden pole and strapped the second sailor to it. Carina's started breathing rapidly. She gave Zhang Heng a quick glance hoping that he could somehow figure out a way to help her. However, she had no idea how he would do that considering Anne and him were the only two that came down from the Jackdaw. Wilton, on the other hand, had more than half of his people on the beach.

Zhang Heng was clearly outnumbered. Any sane person would know that nothing else could be done to salvage the situation. Wilton grabbed his dagger and walked towards his second target, looking at Zhang Heng in disdain at the same time. As expected, Wilton could only remain silent in this situation. This time, he wanted to plant his dagger straight into the sailor's chest, using its sharp tip to run through the sailor's body, taunting him and enjoying the look of fear on his face. Just when he was about to kill his target, he heard the sound of two cannons firing.

"Who the f\*ck fired the cannons again? We are here to do business! We don't want any trouble, eh? There are still some powerful pirates over here. We cannot afford to mess with Honegg, Black Prince, and Blackbeard. Let's play nice in the land of others," said Wilton.

"Captain, our ship didn't fire the cannons. It... it seems as if our ship is under attack!" said one of the pirates who was starting to panic.

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Wilton's face changed immediately. When he turned to the port, he saw that his ship, the Skeleton, was under attack! Though he left quite a few of his men on board, he never expected anyone to be brazen enough to attack it. The ambush caused the Skeleton's crew to run around like headless chickens. They didn't even get the opportunity to open their cannon's hatches after the first round of attacks.

"Return the Gentle Breeze and the goods into Carina. I want you to release all her sailors as well. Do that, and I will stop the attack," said Zhang Heng.

"What if I say no?"

“I will sink your ship then.”

“No one had ever threatened me before since I became a pirate!”

“Congratulations! You have one now. You can continue taking your time to think about it, but I cannot guarantee that your ship still floats in about... five minutes.”

“Aren’t you afraid of the consequences of breaking the laws of this island? Attacking any ships that are docked at the harbor is forbidden!”

“You are not a pirate of this island. I don’t see any problem attacking an alien ship.”

Wilton tapped the handle of his dagger faster and faster. It appeared he was deep in thought.

“By the way, if you are thinking of stalling me and asking your second ship to attack us, I suggest you give up on the idea. That’s because I can guarantee that your second ship will be paralyzed as well.”

At first, Wilton did not believe Zhang Heng. However, when he saw that the Quidah had their cannons pointed directly at his second ship. It was then that he realized Zhang Heng wasn’t in a mood for empty threats.

“Are you sure you want to make an enemy out of me?” asked Wilton as he glared at Zhang Heng with an icy stare.

“What about you?”

Zhang Heng looked into Wilton’s eyes without the slightest bit of fear. Eventually, Wilton caved in and decided to do what Zhang Heng asked him to do.

“Release them!”

Wilton’s pirates cut the ropes that tied the sailors of the Gentle Breeze. The two ran to Carina and embraced her the moment they regained their freedom. Another middle-aged sailor staggered towards the lifeless Booker and started to weep uncontrollably as he held his body in his arms. He was Booker’s uncle and was the one that asked him to work for the Gentle Breeze. Never would have expected that this job would cause him to lose his nephew just like that.

Wilton then glared at Zhang Heng, but received no response.

“Inform our brothers on the ship to let the rest of the captured sailors go. Return their goods to them as well! Are you happy now?” growled Wilton with gritted teeth.

This time, Zhang Heng finally responded. He signaled the Jackdaw’s watcher, who quickly updated Billy about their captain’s decision. Half a minute later, the Jackdaw finally stopped firing. Unfortunately, the Skeleton was already severely damaged by then. Though it was still afloat, it had lost all ability to retaliate.

The Jackdaw was more potent than most of the ordinary pirate ships. After all, it was a corvette, and they did not miss a single shot since the Skeleton was parked so close to them. Once Wilton’s knew about the extent of his ship’s damage, he led his men back to Skeleton without uttering a single word to Zhang Heng. All he did was glare at him.

“Are we really going to let them go? I don’t think they will let us off the hook,” said Anne.

“They have a lot more people than us. I’m afraid he will kill us all if we pressure him too much. But you are right. He will begin attacking us once he fixes his ship. We will have to deal with this problem tonight. Inform our men to prepare for the next battle!”

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## **Chapter 187: Preparation**

“So you’re just going to this slide?” asked the Skeleton’s crew to Wilton.

“Let it slide? I have been venturing the seas for 20 years now. No one has ever had the guts to talk to me like that! He threatened me and forced me to spit out our plunder, our rightful loot! If I let this matter slide, no one in this city will respect us anymore. No one will fear us when we ply the oceans!” Wilton growled with a murderous stare.

“Will we be breaking the island’s rules if we attack them right here? Aren’t you the one who told us that there are many powerful pirates here? I believe the ship that paralyzed us is Black Prince Sam’s Quidah. I heard that they have a large number of pirates as well, not to mention that they seemed to be fearless.

“Don’t get our priorities wrong, Rhodes. This is not our territory. It was only due to someone asking us to take care of the woman that we came all the way to Nassau. We weren’t even supposed to be here for too long. I don’t care what you’re going to do. I need you to help fix the ship as soon as possible. The day the Skeleton sails again will be the day I kill that bloody guy and everyone he knows! I will cut off their heads and toss them around the city center! May that serve as a fine warning to whoever that messes around with me! After it is done, we will leave the island right away.”

“Roger that, captain.”

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On the other side, Carina looked at Zhang Heng in excitement, never expecting him to make it back to Nassau in time and coming to her rescue. The moment he appeared in front of her, she knew that all her problems were solved. Not only did he save the entire crew of the Gentle Breeze, but he also managed to return her the ship and all its cargo.

It was at that time that Carina realized how much the Jackdaw meant to her. Though she managed to do her job well when Zhang Heng was away, she was in constant fear. However, all that insecurity disappeared the moment he came back. She had faith that the man standing before her could solve every problem she faced.

Ever since she came to Nassau, she felt like she was living amongst a pack of hyenas and was forced and was forced to be vigilant at all times to survive. Only when Zhang Heng was around her could she finally take a breather. Although they had not known each other for a long time, Carina felt she could fully trust Zhang Heng no matter what the situation would be.

She bounced excitedly in front of Zhang Heng, staring at him with sparkling eyes.

“We can talk later if you have something to tell me. Right now, I need you to send some of your men to watch over Wilton. Come update me immediately if you think something’s not right,” Zhang Heng told her.

Meanwhile, Honegg returned to the beach after hearing cannons being fired. Earlier, Wilton promised him that he would never fire them in Nassau. At first, Honegg thought that Wilton must have broken his promise. He instantly stormed back to the beach with his people, also instructing one of them to bring more of his men to the beach.

When he was halfway there, Honegg realized that, in fact, the Skeleton was the victim here.

“Did you fire at the Skeleton?” Honegg demanded when he met Zhang Heng.

“I don’t think we broke any rules, right? All I did was help Ms. Carina get back whatever belonged to her.”

“You guys attacked a ship docked at Nassau’s without permission! I don’t think I need to tell you how serious this matter is. If I don’t punish you right here, right now, I’m afraid that the ships at our port would no longer be safe!”

“We attacked an unidentified ship docked at our port. They also robbed our black-market merchant, not to mention directly firing at Nassau only 15 minutes ago. Technically speaking, we are helping to defend the island.”

“Do you really think I can’t tell the two apart?!”

“Well. We really did help the island eliminate a threat. Erm. That was actually my idea. I didn’t like the newcomers, being so arrogant and all the moment they set foot on our lands. That’s why Captain Zhang and I decided to teach them a lesson. We simply want them to learn how to obey the rules. We even saved you from the incident repeating itself if they were to come again,” Black Prince Sam chipped in after tying his small boat to a pole on the beach.

“I’m just curious. Is there anything that you are not involved in on this island? Should I propose that you take over my position during our next meeting? You can help with the defense and maintaining the order of this island. I might as well go back to sea and become a captain again. Speaking of which, I have haven’t set sail for almost seven years now. You know, I’m actually starting to miss the life out there. Although the food on a ship ain’t that good, at least I don’t have to deal with shit like this every single day!”

“I don’t think anyone on this island can replace you. People here respect you, Mr. Honegg. Your reputation alone is enough to make everyone on this island bow down to your wishes.”

“I highly doubt that.”

Honegg harrumphed and glared at Zhang Heng again. For the sake of Black Prince Sam, Honegg did not pursue the matter any further. Before he left, he gave Zhang Heng a warning.

“I don’t care about whatever quarrel you have with the black-market alliance. I hope that both parties can practice some self-control. Resolve the matter while abiding by every law of the island. I do not wish to see this ever happening again!”

Zhang Heng nodded and watched Honegg walking away. Before Black Prince Sam could say anything, Zhang Heng interrupted him.

“Leave this matter to me. Your Quidah has helped enough. I’m afraid that your relationship with the black-market alliance might be affected if you continue associating with me.”

“I merely trade with them. I do not work for Malcolm. But, it seems like you have a plan in mind anyway. If that is so, I will not disturb you anymore. You can look for me any time you need my help. My men will tell you where I am.”

Zhang Heng thanked him with a warm handshake. After Black Prince Sam left, Zhang Heng and Anne started to work on what they would do next. First, they visited one of their old friends, Baal, an arms dealer in Nassau. Half an hour later, Zhang Heng purchased everything that he needed, and Carina’s most trusted worker delivered the items to the reef. Another hour soon passed, and Anne covertly arrived with another 40 pirates from the Jackdaw.

### **Chapter 188: Massacre**

It was midnight when the Skeleton arrived at Nassau. After enduring a series of events, most of its crew were exhausted when they returned to their ship. Typically, there was no need to patrol the ship at night since it was docked at the port, but ever since the Jackdaw attacked the Skeleton, Wilton decided that he wasn’t taking any chances. He specially formed four teams of pirates to take turns and spy on the Jackdaw, informing Wilton if they saw it attempting to make a move on them.

After that, Wilton locked himself in the captain’s quarters and started drinking liquor. As he sipped on the rum, he could not help but think about the incident that happened on the beach. It made him so angry that he took out his dagger and stabbed it on the table. It was at that moment that he changed his mind about killing Zhang Heng. Now, he was hellbent on torturing him to the point he regretted he was born into this world.

Most of the pirates were already asleep when Wilton was having his 6th glass of rum. None of them realized the imminent threat they were about to face. After taking a look at the time, Zhang Heng stood up and nodded to Anne.

“It’s time. Let’s do it.”

After that, Zhang Heng hid his pocket watch and gun under a rock. He entered the water first with Anne following right behind him. The rest of the Jackdaw’s pirates had all changed into black suits and held a dagger between their teeth. All of them were swimming towards the Skeleton. Hutcheson actually inspired this strategy, and although he didn’t manage to take the Jackdaw down with this method, the 20 enemies that boarded the Jackdaw had completed what Hutcheson wanted. Their job was to stall Anne and the remaining pirates on the Jackdaw, and they actually did it.

If the watchers hadn’t spotted them, the Jackdaw might have suffered an even greater loss. This time, the situation was way different. Hutcheson attacked the Jackdaw in daylight, and their pirates were all armed since they were already in the middle of a fight. This time, Zhang Heng chose to attack the Skeleton at night because it was surely harder for their enemies to spot them. Most of the pirates on the

Skeleton were also asleep right now, with only a couple of them guarding the ship. In other words, the ship was at its most vulnerable state.

They would have never expected Zhang Heng to attack again right after the Jackdaw attacked their ships a few hours ago. And, this time, they came well-prepared, electing to bring along silent and stealthy arms. The dagger was their primary weapon of choice. Only a couple of grenades were carried in case of an emergency. Other than that, Zhang Heng also bought a hunting bow from Baal.

Anne and Zhang Heng were the first ones to board the Skeleton. He immediately crouched down, looked for a corner, and opened up his tarpaulin bag. He then took out the hunting bow and arrows. As for Anne, she silently analyzed and observed the enemies that were standing on the deck.

Wilton formed a group consisting of three pirates to spy on the Jackdaw. One stood on the watchtower, another at the bow, and the last person was constantly on the move. Anne hid behind the rudder as she counted the footsteps that she could hear. The moment she counted until seven, she jumped out and slit the throat of a passing pirate! Then she instantly moved to the pirate at the bow. As luck would have it, he was sound asleep and didn't realize her approaching him.

The pirate that stood at the watchtower finally spotted Zhang Heng and his pirates. Before he could even sound the alarm, Zhang Heng shot an arrow directly into his heart. At the same time, Anne managed to eliminate the last pirate as well. As of now, all existing threats on the deck were eliminated. Zhang Heng quickly headed back to the gunwale to signal all his pirates to board the ship. After that, all of them stormed into the cabins as fast as they could. Zhang Heng's orders were reasonably straightforward. Kill everyone on this ship that breathed.

A brutal massacre was about to unfold on the Skeleton. With a team of two, one would cover the enemy's mouth, while the other would slit their throats, slowly moving from one side of the ship to another. With this method, they made sure that no one was left alive. Soon, the stench of blood wafted across the room. It would seem that Zhang Heng conducted his operation when the pirates of the Skeleton were in deep sleep.

However, an accident was bound to happen since so many people were being killed at the same time. Three minutes later, one of Zhang Heng's teams failed to inflict a lethal wound on their target. The pirate started to struggle, and the commotion quickly woke the rest of the pirates that were still alive. Unfortunately, it was all but too late as two-third of the Skeleton's crew had been killed in their cabins.

Before they could even wield any weapons to retaliate, the Jackdaw's pirates planted daggers into their hearts. Only a dozen managed to get a hold of their weapons and started to fight back, but again, it was all too late. The plan turned out better than Zhang Heng expected, and the whole conundrum lasted for only 15 minutes.

In the end, Zhang Heng and his men had eliminated more than a hundred pirates. When it whole thing was almost done, none bothered to count the enemies that they'd killed. The grenades they carried with them remained unused throughout the entire battle.

When Zhang Heng entered the captain's quarters, he found no one inside, but the windows were ajar. Zhang Heng quickly peered outside only to see Wilton attempting to swim to his second ship. Calmly, he placed an arrow on his hunting bow and released it.

Thwack!!!

Wilton's shoulder was hit! Knowing that his life was on the line, he could do nothing but swim as fast as he could. Suddenly, he took in a deep breath and dived below the water. Zhang Heng frowned as his second shot missed its target. Tonight's plan was only half-successful. Though all the pirates on the Skeleton were all dead, there were still around 60 pirates on the second ship. If Wilton managed to get there, he might be able to flee Nassau. He might even decide to destroy the Jackdaw since it was almost empty now. Zhang Heng and the rest of the pirates would surely not make it back in time if Wilton launched an attack on the Jackdaw.

Without the slightest bit of hesitation, Zhang Heng took out his Paris Arrow and aimed it at Wilton. This item cost him around 400 game points. Previously, he was worried that the waves might carry the arrow away if he used it. That would be a significant loss for him. However, this wasn't the time to worry about this problem.

Once Wilton emerged from the water to catch a breath, Zhang Heng took a shot with his Paris Arrow. As there was no time for a good aim, he simply fired at will. The arrow flew into the water with a loud whizz!

Moments later, Wilton's body floated to the surface of the ocean.

### **Chapter 189: Protest**

Honegg was getting old. By the time he dealt with all the things at hand, it was already late into the night. He retreated to bed, only to wake up again not too long after he closed his eyes. Perhaps he knew that he did not have much time left. It was common for older people to greatly appreciate the remaining days that they had.

Honegg put on his clothes and tricorne. His mood had greatly improved after gorging on the warm breakfast delivered by one of his men. According to his daily routine, he would head to the city walls after breakfast, looking down over the entire Nassau from where he stood. This was the point where he could feel the joy in his heart. Nassau didn't have an official governor-general assigned by Scotland. The closest person to that was Honegg. He was given the unenviable task of defending Nassau.

It would seem that Black Prince Sam had somehow ignited his anger. In reality, he was quite happy with his current condition. A very long time ago, when he was still a legendary captain, he had started planning for his retirement. He and Frazer were known to be the two most powerful captains on the island of Nassau. Now, age had taken a toll on him, and he wasn't as healthy and strong as before. He did, however, accumulate massive wealth after being a pirate for decades. At the same time, he fell prey to certain illnesses as well. Rheumatism was one of the diseases that had been torturing his knee for a long time now.

Eight years ago, Honegg decided that he would quit being a seafarer and, instead, lead his men to take over Nassau. It was then that he embarked on a new life. According to the agreement, he would protect and maintain order in Nassau with his men. In return, the merchants of the isle would pay him a certain amount of money each month as the protection fee.

The fee wasn't too expensive, and the merchants of Nassau could easily come up with whatever Honegg asked for since they earned considerable profit from their trade. Though it faded in comparison with

whatever he made when he was still a pirate, the difference wasn't much at the end of the day. The most important thing for him, though, was the safety of his pirates. Now, he did not have to put their lives at risk anymore.

Although they lived comfortably at the moment, it did come with its disadvantages. They were forced to stay inside the fortress for a long time every single day. The boredom that resulted from it constantly tormented their minds. Since they no longer needed to fight, their bodies started to shrivel as well. Most importantly, they lacked an injection of new blood. When he was still a captain, he would lose his men in battle from time to time. After that, he would recruit eager younglings to join his ship. It was an effective method to replace the older crew no longer suited for the pirate's life.

Since they didn't live on land, most of the men that stuck with Honegg were the last batch of pirates that conquered Nassau with him. Over time, his men started becoming lazy. Nevertheless, Honegg would never fire them since they all shared a profound relationship with him. Of course, he could use the money he collected to recruit a new batch of young fighters, but he realized that he would never trust them the way he trusted his old allies.

Fortunately, his name preceded his reputation, and nobody in Nassau realized that he'd lost his edge. Honegg knew better than anyone that he and his men were now way weaker in terms of combat ability compared to the time when they first arrived here. If he could take down this fortress with his men years ago, other pirate crews could also do the same right now.

In a time like this, he needed to show that he was still as tough as before. That was why Honegg brought his men to the beach when he heard that the Skeleton had opened fire there. As he confronted the young and dominant Wilton, he managed to put on a good show and concealed his weaknesses well. Still, he felt extremely exhausted after dealing with a matter like this.

Luckily, Wilton was willing to take a step back and promised that he would never cause further trouble in Nassau. Since Honegg got what he wanted, he decided that he would not hold Wilton responsible for his deeds. As for Carina's business, it wasn't under his jurisdiction. Everyone knew that her career was coming to an end in Nassau. At first, Honegg thought that all problems had been solved. He did not expect that Zhang Heng would return and assist Carina by attacking Wilton's ships.

The matter started to head in the direction where Honegg least desired, especially when Black Prince got involved. Once the conflict became more significant and he failed to contain it, people would quickly realize that he must have grown weak. That was why he gave Zhang Heng a stern warning.

Honegg could see that Wilton and his crew were only passer-bys and would probably leave once they settled their business. The best-case scenario would be everyone going through this period together peacefully. Sadly, things didn't turn out the way he wanted it.

He was sitting on his favorite chair, one that was taken from a governor-general's room during one of his pillages. It was one of the few items that he cared about. When he sat on it, he would start to reminisce about his good-old-days, the days that were filled with pomp and glory. As he enjoyed his peace and quiet, he suddenly noticed a huge group of people gathering at the beach. This time, it appeared that the crowd was larger than yesterday.

"Now... what the hell is going on again?"

A bald plump guy who was behind him simply shrugged. He was the helmsman of Honegg's ship. During the old days, he was considered one of the smartest men in the area. Now, he had been reduced to a sorry drunkard. He would usually drink until the early hours of the morning to the point of unconsciousness.

"No idea. Perhaps some fishermen have come to sell their catch," replied the helmsman while burping.

"I have seen fishermen here before, Domingo. I'm pretty f\*cking sure that they aren't selling seafood. Send some people to check them out. This is a delicate time. I don't wish to see any more accidents happening."

"As you wish."

Domingo left the place, stumbling around wonkily. Honegg could not help but sigh as he looked at him. Oh, how the great have fallen. Half an hour later, the person tasked to check the beach came back to Honegg.

"Wilton!! Wilton!!!"

"Ah, crap! What did he do this time?"

"No. Wilton is dead!" said the investigator.

Honegg was shocked, unable to believe that the captain of two ships and 200 men had been killed in one night. Above all, he heard something even more ridiculous.

"It's not only Wilton; all of his men are dead as well! Most had their throats slit. As for Wilton, someone tossed his body on the beach in the exact spot where he executed the sailors. His stomach had been cut open!"

### **Chapter 190: Changes That Come With It**

Honegg ran to the beach with his men, and that was when he saw Wilton's body. Tied around two wooden planks, he seemed to have died in a similar fashion to the sailor he killed earlier. Even the wound on his stomach was identical as well. It was genuinely an ironic situation. However, the cut on his stomach appeared to be added post-mortem. The lethal wound was actually a small hole on his chest. He must have been killed by an arrow.

Just like the dead pirates on both of Wilton's ships, the perpetrator left no clues around the crime scene. However, even a blind person would know who the culprit was. The Skeleton was here for less than a day, and the only person they had friction with was Zhang Heng. Both of them argued at the port, with Zhang Heng attacking Wilton's ship in the end. Since his ship was severely damaged, he had no choice but to release the sailors from the Gentle Breeze. Admittedly, that was how they became enemies.

Many who gathered there knew that this matter wasn't about to be settled just like that, but nobody expected Zhang Heng to make the first move as well. All the while, he had the upper hand, so everyone was shocked when they saw how he tackled this problem. It was both ruthless and brutal.

1Wilton was one of the bloodthirstiest pirates Nassau had ever witnessed. He sliced open the stomach of a living man in front of everyone and even smiled while he was at it. That was enough to send chills down everyone's spines. He was indeed a lunatic. Three hours after the incident, Zhang Heng used the simplest way to avenge the sailor.

A total of 200 pirates were brutally killed. When dawn arrived, the fishermen had first spotted Wilton's body, and the entire tragedy was unfolded before the people of Nassau. Conflicts were rather frequent amongst the pirates of Nassau. Typically, they would only argue over their dispute. Rarely, some resorted to physical fights. Even the most severe incident that they witnessed were two captains brawling with each other. None had ever seen an entire gang of pirates being annihilated, what more, by their fellow pirates.

Of course, anything could happen at sea with witnesses few and far between. Right now, this incident occurred at a busy port. Honegg was naturally displeased. In the period of a night, the event had escalated and was blown out of proportion into something out of his control. After Honegg warned Zhang Heng, it seemed that he was willing to make peace with Wilton. With the help of Black Prince Sam, the incident was supposed to end right there."

As compared to Zhang Heng and Jackdaw, Honegg was more worried about the Skeleton, especially Wilton, whose absolute merciless personality was a rarity amongst the pirates. Birds of the same feather flocked together, and now, Zhang Heng displayed similar brutality. Honegg began to worry that they would cause more trouble to Nassau. He then took another look at Wilton's body. It appeared that Wilton had severely underestimated Zhang Heng. If he knew that Zhang Heng was coming at him, he would have killed Zhang Heng first even if it meant losing his flag.

"Where is he right now?!" asked Honegg furiously.

The moment Zhang Heng annihilated the entire Wilton's pirate group, it meant that he was directly challenging Honegg's authority. It appeared that yesterday's warning was all but wasted breath. It was indeed an embarrassing moment for him.

Honegg's man hesitated to answer his question. However, when he saw his boss getting angrier, he finally spoke up.

"Someone saw the Jackdaw's pirates near Carina's trading center. It appears they got a good yield during their last voyage. I think they are getting their share of money now."

Honegg harrumphed and stormed to the trade center without saying a word. His men looked at each other, and a smart-alec ran to tell Domingo about it. The rest were forced to follow Honegg as he looked for Zhang Heng. Soon, Honegg spotted Carina talking to Zhang Heng from afar and increased his pace. Zhang Heng instantly noticed Honegg coming at him in a mighty fury.

Honegg was one of the most experienced pirates in Nassau. He was a generous man when he was still a captain, even going as far as to give a ship that he'd robbed to his men. Rumour had it that half of the captains of Nassau were involved with him one way or another. It might sound like an exaggeration, but it proved that he had connections all over the island.

"Captain Honegg, how can I help you?"

Zhang Heng approached Honegg first and greeted him politely. At first, Honegg wanted to confront him about Wilton's death but became speechless the moment they met. After witnessing Wilton's body and all the dead on the two ships, Honegg felt that Zhang Heng had changed. The Jackdaw had gotten famous in Nassau recently. The reason of their success had everything to do with their conflict with the black-market alliance. Since they lacked experience, old sea legs like Honegg didn't pay too much attention to him.

After last night's incident, Honegg unconsciously saw Zhang Heng as someone on the same level as him. Apart from that, Honegg also realized that many pirates were lining up, waiting to receive their share of gold coins. Judging by the weight of their money bags, it seemed Zhang Heng had another excellent yield. The prospect of getting rich made the pirates in line drool like little babies.

Zhang Heng's capability of leading his men to good money had been proven once again. The Jackdaw was close to becoming a top-tier crew in Nassau. All they needed right now was some fame to make their name known. Attention from the conflict that they had with the black-market alliance wasn't something they wanted, but rather, they wished to be known as the most successful pirate group of Nassau. Usually, there were no shortcuts around matters like this. After Wilton's death, however, they had inadvertently made their name known throughout the entire Nassau.

Not only did Zhang Heng manage to deal with Wilton's threats, but he also managed to instill the word that no one should mess with him. The name, the Jackdaw, had become a bit of a hush-hush matter. This could be seen from the reaction of Honegg's men. When they heard that Honegg wanted to confront Zhang Heng, they started trembling in fear. This fear and respect he earned came at the cost of 200 lives. Other than Blackbeard who had attacked Charleston and killed two governor-generals, Zhang Heng was now the most highly respected individual of Nassau.