

Episode 3

The Boar's Thrust

[As before, singing formatted to the left, dialogue to the centre]

A ghostly sea shanty plays ('Such Sweet Revenge').

VO

Long Cat Media presents The Ballad of
Anne & Mary. Episode 3: The Boar's
Thrust.

SCENE 1. EXT. STREET, LONDON - DAY

In the DRIZZLING RAIN, Bess the ballad singer does her
thing.

The street urchins in attendance are particularly rapt. They
GIGGLE in anticipation, and are SHUSHED by adults.

Bess plays a few notes on her VIOLIN to punctuate lines.

BESS

From out of the mist in the moon's
ghostly light
A tall silhouette looms into view
A timber frame skeleton cloaked all
in white
The Revenge and its icy cold crew.

WREN THE URCHIN

A ghost ship!

BESS

That's right, child...

And aboard this pale vessel,
such monsters reside
The devil made flesh
to claim good sailors' lives!

WREN

You mean Anne & Mary?

BESS

They're the worst of all.

(MORE)

BESS (cont'd)
 And they hunger for chaos, they
 hunger for blood
 They hunger for silver and gold
 But they hunger the most for your
 soul.

The children SCREAM in mock horror.

NATHANIEL
 (laughing) Bess, you're scaring the
 children!

WREN
 I'm not scared!

NATHANIEL
 You know, they're actually rather
 nice, in real life, Anne & Mary. I
 know them both.

WREN
 No, you don't!

NATHANIEL
 Yes I do! I'm seeing them today.

WREN
 You're a liar!

NATHANIEL
 You little shit--

BESS
 Nathaniel! Can you shut up! I'm
 trying to build an atmosphere.

The CROWD GRUMBLE at the interruption.

NATHANIEL
 (To Bess) Sorry. (To crowd) Sorry!
 (To Bess) Go ahead.

Bess recreates the atmosphere that Nathaniel just ruined.
 Along with the sounds of the street, we start to hear the
 CREAK of the ships, the LAPPING of water.

BESS
 What's your name?

WREN
 (thrilled) Me? Wren.

BESS
Well, little Wren...

(sung)

BESS

In the crow's nest of some honest ship stands a child
Just like you, keeping watch in the night
And squinting, this child spies a mast in the mist
And a shiver runs down the child's spine
It's the flag the ship flies that has stole this child's
breath
For the flag the ship flies is the promise of death.

[Music becomes non-diegetic, intense, filmic]

BESS CONT.

And on that black flag is a skull stark and white
'Tis Calico Jack - eyes hollow, bones bright
'Neath that skeletal grin
Two weapons of sin
The crossed swords of Anne & Mary!

SCENE 2. EXT. DECK OF THE REVENGE - DAY

The CLASH of swords! The GRUNTS of a fight! High adventure!

READ
Rrrrrrrgh!

GRUNT, CLANG!

BOB
You'll never take me alive!

READ
Shut up and fight.

CLANG! CLANG! CLA--

A CLATTER as Bob drops his sword on the deck

BOB
I dropped me sword.

READ
Pick it up, then.

Psych! It's not a deadly battle at all. Mark Read is
teaching Bob to fight with practice swords.

BOB
Yessir.

READ
Pay attention, Bob. New move. This is known as the Boar's Thrust. Drop to one knee, like so -

THUD of knee on deck.

READ (cont'd)
...and push the sword upwards, like a tusk.

Read shows the moves as she calls them out.

READ (cont'd)
So - feint - block - drop - thrust. See? Your turn.

BOB
Feint. Block. Drop and... rahhhh!

Bob JABS Read with the sword.

READ
Ow!

BOB
Sorry sir!

READ
(in pain) Bob, what did I tell you? Pull your blows at practice! Jesus!

BOB
I got carried away!

Anne is watching nearby.

ANNE
(calls) Hey Jack! Read's getting beaten by a small boy.

READ AND BOB
Not that small.

Jack LAUGHS.

JACK
(calls) Good work, Bob! Keep it up.

Anne saunters over.

ANNE
Give me your sword.

BOB

Yes Miss!

ANNE

Don't salute me, Robert, this isn't the Navy.

BOB

Sorry Miss!

ANNE

Alright, off you go, Bob.

BOB

Yes Miss!

Bob leaves.

ANNE

(to Read) I've been wanting to beat your arse since you got here, Read.

READ

(surprised) You want to fight me?

ANNE

There's no fighting between pirates, remember? This is sparring. (attacks) Rahhhgh!

CLANGGGG! It's a heavy blow. Anne means business.

The SWORD-FIGHTING SONG begins.

CLANG!

READ

Steady on!

ANNE

It's blunt, you'll only bruise! Or maybe break.

CLANGGGG! More fighting.

ANNE (cont'd)

Have you been avoiding me, Read?

READ

No.

ANNE

Sure about that?

ANNE

(sung) You've been here weeks now, we've barely spoken. I draw near, and you scuttle away. Don't think I haven't noticed.

Rarrgh!

CLANGGG!

READ

I didn't think you wanted me here.

ANNE (cont'd)

Sure you're not just scared of me?
(attacks) Rahhhhr!

They fight. Anne's grunts are like Monica Seles. Read is more restrained.

READ

Oof! You almost got me!

ANNE

You're not trying hard enough!
Don't hold back because I'm a woman.

READ (cont'd)

I'm not.

ANNE

Come on! Harder! Faster!

READ

Alright. You asked for it.

Faster this time. CLANG! CLANG! CLANG!

Anne and Read are enjoying themselves.

ANNE

Hahaaa! That's more like it.
First sword I ever had was a wooden cutlass. My ma gave it to me on my 8th birthday. Loved 'em ever since.

READ

She gave a sword to a little girl?

ANNE

I was raised as a boy.

READ

(surprised) You were? Me too!

ANNE
Well obviously. What do you mean--

READ
(interrupts) Nothing! Come on.
Faster!

CLANG! CLANG! CLANG! CLANG!

READ
You're good.

ANNE
You're pretty good yourself. Not good enough, mind.

READ
You think you can take me?

ANNE
Easily.

READ
I don't fancy your chances. I learnt my skills on the
battlefields of Europe.

ANNE
During what? The hundred years war?

READ
Haha, very funny. I'm not that old.

ANNE
Oh what's that? That sound, is that
the ship falling apart? Oh no, it's
just your old bones creaking.

READ
I'm thirty-two!

ANNE
It's been a hard life. Time to put
you out of your misery.

READ
Oh you little scrote...

More fighting! Very fast, now.

Anne and Read are BOTH WHEEZING with effort.

READ

(wheezing) Getting tired?

ANNE

(wheezing) Nah, I'm just relaxed, to be honest. Bit too feckin' easy.

[Read LAUGHS.]

READ

Oh yeah? So what's with the wheezing? You can give up, if you like.

ANNE

Out of charity, you mean?

READ (cont'd)
You're never off, are you?

READ CONT.

I've never met anyone like you.

ANNE
Oh yeah?

ANNE CONT

So you think all women are the same, and I'm the one exception.

READ
No! That's not... I meant... that you're uniquely irritating.

ANNE
Yeah yeah. I know your type.

ANNE CONT

You feckers force us into one mold, don't cha, you trim the edges off until we fit. And nothing makes you start trimming edges off quicker than the moment you display an ounce of grit. And if you wanna keep your edges keen, then you have to run away to bloody sea--

THWACK! Practice sword hits flesh! Read has attacked! Anne CRIES OUT, rather dramatically.

ANNE (cont'd)
Ow! Me arm!

READ
You left an opening!

ANNE
(melodrama) Owwww. Ohhh, my arm.

READ
Are you hurt?

ANNE
(feeble) I think you broke it...
ohhh... oh no. Ohhh.

READ
Let me see...

ANNE
It's, it's just there...

Anne abruptly changes her tune.

ANNE (cont'd)
Rarrgh!

Anne surges up. THWACK of a sword, and the RIP of CLOTH.
Read CRIES OUT and HITS THE DECK.

READ
(winded) The Boar's Thrust! You
sneaky cow!

ANNE
(laughing) Killer blow! Mark Read's
guts spill onto the deck! Anne Bonny
wins! Who's the greatest pirate of
the Caribbean? I am!

Read GROANS.

READ
I can't believe I fell for that.

ANNE
Shouldn't have let your guard down!

READ
(sotto, bemused) But I never let my
guard down.

ANNE
Here: take my hand. Up ya come!

She pulls Read up. Read GRUNTS in pain.

ANNE (cont'd)
Oh, I ripped your shirt! Did I break
the skin? Let's look....

READ
(panic) NO! I'm fine. Please.
I need to go sew this up.

ANNE
Oh, right. Bye, then.

Read walks off.

ANNE (cont'd)
(calls) Good fight! We'll practice
again tomorrow?

READ
(calls) Yeah. Maybe.

(sotto, angry) Never let your guard
down, Read. Never let your...
guard... down. (beat)

Read SIGHS angrily. Thinks. Then...

READ (cont'd)
(calls) Anne. Wait!

Read heads back.

ANNE
What is it? Back for another
drubbing? I can do that.

READ
I want to tell you something.

ANNE
(knowing) Go on.

READ
I... I... you might be surprised.

ANNE
Will I? (laughs) I doubt it.

READ
You doubt it?

ANNE

I know what you're gonna say, Read.
But go ahead.

READ

I...

ANNE

Come on, let's have it.

READ

I was born Mary. Not Mark.

Beat.

ANNE

That's... not what I thought you were
gonna say.

READ

Oh. What did you think I was gonna..?

ANNE

Nothing. Nothing. Nothing. No no.
Just that you were in love with me.

READ

(surprise) I have no idea why
you'd...

ANNE

(interrupts) It happens a lot, that's
all I'm saying. Like, all the time.
OK?

READ

I bet.

ANNE

But you're not. In love with me, I
mean. Which is totally fine.
Brilliant, in fact. Anything else?

READ

Well, there was the other thing.
The... Mary thing.

ANNE

Oh yeah. 'Mary'. Why did they call a
boy 'Mary'?

READ

You know what, never mind. This is...
ridiculous. Let's pretend I never
said anything. Bye now!

Read walks off.

ANNE

(realising) Ohhhhh! *Mary!*

Anne catches up.

ANNE (cont'd)

Wait! Wait. Alright. 'Mary'. I get it
now. (cheerful) Huh! How about that!

READ

Yeah.

ANNE

'Mary'.

READ

Yep.

ANNE

'Mary'.

READ

Maybe don't keep saying it.

ANNE

Oh.

READ

Call me Read, as you did before. I
haven't changed.

ANNE

Of course! Read.
So, ummm. Do you want the others to
know?

READ

No. There's no need.

ANNE

Right. Just me, then.

READ

Although... sometimes I think, I want
them to know.

(MORE)

READ (cont'd)
 Because if they didn't mind... but
 they would mind. No, don't tell them.
 It's too risky.

ANNE
 Alright.

READ
 Daniel knew. And Daniel loved me.

ANNE
 Yeah...

READ
 But the others... if they think they
 can't trust me... I don't know.

ANNE
 Read, I don't know either. But I
 really believe that here, more than
 anywhere else, you can be what you
 want.

ANNE
 Freedom.
 You can start again
 The dogmas and laws of the land
 They count for nought
 On board The Revenge.
 So many | Risks we have to take
 For a | life that's not a sham
 But it's worth it.
 Yes it's worth it.
 Cos we | live the lives we make
 And the | fates don't give a damn
 If we live or die
 So for now let's try
 To (live).

READ
 What would it be like to be free?

ANNE
 The freest that you'll ever get to be

READ
 From a life that would have me bound in
 Spurious acceptability

ANNE
 We don't do this for the...

READ

This is a life that I have had through others seeing what I'd have them see

ANNE

...violence, the chaos...

READ

But oh, what would it be like?

ANNE

...the living outside of the law.

READ

What would it be like to live as me?

ANNE

We do this to tell our story as it truly is

READ

I could breathe

ANNE

You could breathe.

(Into shanty...)

PIRATE CHORUS

Oh the times be hard and the times be tough
 On the land and the great wide sea
 But it truly is such sweet revenge
 To be sailing bold and free, ohhh
 To be sailing bold and free.

SCENE 3. INT. READ'S CELL - PRESENT

Read and Nathaniel are very comfortable around each other; proof that time has passed, they have met and bonded, and have something approaching a friendship.

Read's health has improved, although she still sounds rather ill; SLURRED, SLOW and PHLEGMY.

Read is EATING a BUN, and sometimes speaks with their mouth full.

Nathaniel is cheerful. He reads aloud from his newspaper.

NATHANIEL

(reads)'...and when there is less corruption on a pirates' ship than there is in the houses of parliament, some thing has to change.

NATHANIEL (cont'd)
 Would that our ministers sought to
 exercise dominion not over others,
 but over themselves. From, your
 humble servant, Captain Charles
 Johnson.' There!

He SHAKES the newspaper out, excited, gleeful. A little
 wired, maybe.

NATHANIEL (cont'd)
 What do you think? It's possibly the
 most seditious letter ever printed in
 Mist's Weekly. And hundreds, nay
thousands of people are reading it
 over their morning kippers, right
 now! Hee hee!
 Read, you've left half your bun. Come
 now. You must eat.

READ
 (grumbles) My teeth are loose.

NATHANIEL
 Here, dip it in the ale.

READ
 Stop fussing.

NATHANIEL
 I'm on strict instructions to fuss.
 When I finally told Anne how ill
 you'd been... you should have heard
 her.

READ
 I did. It scared the last of the
 fever out of me.

NATHANIEL
 What about the powders and healing
 herbs? Have you been taking them?

READ
 (sighs) Yes mother.

In the background, muted by stone walls, a MAN'S PAINED
 BELLOW is heard, as of someone being stabbed with a pencil.

OUTRAGED COMPLAINTS in the corridor about the 'DERANGED
 PIRATE HAG.' The turn-key MUTTERS APOLOGIES.

NATHANIEL

Hmmm, you do look better. - Good God, they're making a racket today. - I shall let Bonny know the roses are returning to your cheeks.

Read dips the bread and EATS.

READ

(chomping) Anne will say I'm more thorn than rose.

NATHANIEL

Ha! True enough.

READ

More prick than flower.

NATHANIEL

...what?

Anne, in the distance, starts SINGING angrily. It is only just audible.

NATHANIEL (cont'd)

(sotto) Is that *Bonny*?

READ

Mist. That letter you read... the one from...

NATHANIEL

...Captain Charles Johnson? What did you think?

READ

I think there is no Captain Charles Johnson. I think you wrote it.

NATHANIEL

(surprised) How did you know that??

READ

Bit obvious, mate.

NATHANIEL

No it's not! You're just clever.

READ

Why are you writing letters to your own newspaper?

NATHANIEL

Because then I can say what I like!
If there's no proof I wrote it, they
can't punish me, can they?

READ

But it's *your* newspaper. You chose to
print it...

NATHANIEL

Well... yes, but...

READ

What did it say, again? King George
is "a cruel, ill-bred--

NATHANIEL

--uneducated old Tyrant". Haha, yes!

READ

Mist. You tit.

NATHANIEL

What?? The public seem to like it.
It's selling very well.

READ

Everyone loves a rebel. They love to
see them swing, too.

NATHANIEL

No, Read. No. Stop that right now.

READ

What?

NATHANIEL

Don't tell me how to do my job.

READ

I'm not. I'm just saying it's
extremely reckless.

NATHANIEL

I will not be scolded about
recklessness by a bloody *pirate*!

READ

Oh yeah? Why not! Behold the
consequences of recklessness! Is this
what you want, Mist?

Read RATTLES her chains.

READ (cont'd)

Is it? Look! Look at the sores the chains have rubbed. Look at my bloody teeth--

NATHANIEL

(interrupts) --No, *you* look. At this -

He SHAKES the PAPER.

NATHANIEL (cont'd)

This newspaper that I am proud of for the first time in a long time. I've been a scared goose, Read. A scared goose sitting on the fence, giving forth silly, pointless prattle.

READ

There's an image.

NATHANIEL

Mist's Weekly had become just another society rag. Because they made me forget who I am. They got in my head; I could no longer fathom why I had ever risked my liberty. Because what on earth could be worth *that*?

READ

What on earth are you talking about?

NATHANIEL

Oh, the fines, they did their damage. The pillory was a special kind of humiliation. But three times I have been held within these walls for 'libel'. For truth! And that... *that* stripped me down to my bones.

Beat.

READ

You were a prisoner. Here. You never told me that.

NATHANIEL

I fell ill here too. Like you did. I didn't tell you because I looked at you and Bonny - trapped in filth, dying by inches - and I felt... disgust.

READ

(cold) So why come at all? If we disgust you.

NATHANIEL

Money, at first. Couldn't say no to that. Curiosity, of course. But eventually, it was because... it was returning me to myself. Your stories were. You were.

Beat.

READ

You underestimate yourself, Mist. You don't need our help to be a pain in the arse.

Mist LAUGHS.

NATHANIEL

No, I suppose not.

READ

I hope it's worth it.

NATHANIEL

I believe it is. The press is powerful. And though I am one man, it can start with one voice. Because another will join in, and another. Until it's so loud, that people start to really listen to what you're saying--

The DOOR SLAMS open, cutting Nathaniel off. It's the turn-key Scratby. He's furious, the anger rolling off him.

SCRATBY

You! Out! Now!

NATHANIEL

No. No! It's not time.

READ

Clear off, Scratby--

SCRATBY

(angry) You shut up. (to Nathan) And you; you're the one what gave her the pencil!

READ / NATHANIEL

Pencil?

SCRATBY

She just stabbed a punter with it!
(calls) LADS. GET IN 'ERE. (mutters)
Where are they?

NATHANIEL

Pencil? Do you mean, Anne? Anne
stabbed someone with a pencil? Who?

SCRATBY

GREGORY! PETERS!

READ

She wouldn't stab someone without
good reason. Punter, was it? Been
whoring her out, have you?

Door OPENS again. Two other turn-keys enter.

PETERS

What d'ya want, Scratby?

SCRATBY

Took your time. This one. Take him
outside.

NATHANIEL

If you touch me...

PETERS

(polite) Sorry about this, sir.
Nothing personal.

NATHANIEL

Get off!

GREGORY

You have to leave now, sir.

SCRATBY

Stop calling 'im 'sir'!

NATHANIEL

You can't treat me like this.

Scratby moves in, gets close to Nathan, enjoys the power.

SCRATBY

So you keep saying. 'Cept, I heard things about you, Mist, from that fella what pays me to let you in. Not exactly squeaky-clean, are ya?

NATHANIEL

Why would Barnet tell you anything...

READ

Barnet? Do you mean Jonathan Barnet??

SCRATBY

(glee) Oh yeah! Didn't you know, love? This one's in cahoots with the pirate-hunter.

READ

Nathaniel! What the hell is this!

NATHANIEL

(stutters) I wouldn't say 'cahoots'. He's my employer.

READ

Your *employer*?? You work for him??

SCRATBY

Take him.

SLAM of door as they DRAG Nathaniel out of the room.
SCUFFLE.

NATHANIEL

(shouts) Unhand me at once!

SCRATBY

I've had enough of this. Shut him up, Harry.

PETERS

Comin' up.

THUNK. Mist is whacked on the head with a truncheon. Mist MOANS.

As he loses consciousness, their voices become blurred.

PETERS (cont'd)

Shall we chuck 'im in the river?

TURN KEY
 Read's given me a better idea...
 let's take him to Captain Barnet.

A GHOSTLY SEA SHANTY can be heard.

SCENE 4. EXT. THE REVENGE - NIGHT

The SEA SHANTY morphs into The Revenge.

Sounds of drinking. The strains of a PENNY WHISTLE playing the sea shanty from earlier.

Bob is extremely drunk, and is showing the others how he can BURP along to THE WHISTLE'S TUNE.

BOB
 (burps a chorus of the sea shanty)

Fenwick LAUGHS.

DOBBIN
 Oh Bob. You're not gonna do the whole song, are ya?

Bob KEEPS BURPING. Fenwick LAUGHS his tits off.

DOBBIN (cont'd)
 Fenwick, don't encourage him. Alright Bob, very good.

BOB
 I've been sick in me mouth.

DOBBIN
 I think you've had enough for tonight.

Barnet approaches with Thomas.

BARNET
 C'mon Thomas! You know it's true!

THOMAS
 Ah, now, I'm not sure about that...

BOB
 (calls) Thomas! Barnet! Come hear me do the burping song!

DOBBIN
 That's enough lad. Siddown.

BOB
Why is the deck spinning?

DOBBIN
What are you lads gabbing about?

THOMAS
Don't ask, Dobbin.

BARNET
No, no. I'll say it. We were
discussing how Calico Jack is, umm...
well, he's hen-pecked!

A MURMUR of disapproval.

BARNET (cont'd)
I'm sorry, but it's true!

FENWICK
Shut your hole, Barnet.

BARNET
Come now, Fenwick. Can't a man speak
freely!

DOBBIN
Yes. And we're free to say you're
talking shit.

BARNET
I'm sure others agree with me--

DOBBIN
(interrupts) --You've not been on the
Revenge long, Barnet. There's ways to
air grievances, and this ain't it.

BARNET
Alright! Alright. Calm down. I was
only saying.

FENWICK
I won't hear Jack maligned. I'm going
to bed.

DOBBIN
Night, Fenwick.

BOB
Jack's been kind to me. I like him.

BARNET

Of course you do, Bob. Jack's a lovely man. But is that what we need from a captain?

BARNET

Think how many more ships we could be taking
Every | one we let slip is a prize that we're forsaking
We could be | aiming so much higher
If Jack would | only show a little more fire
But | no, he says, too risky!
Smaller vessels only.

DOBBIN

That's just good | sense,
Erring on the side of caution
Nothing wrong with that.
Any raid you sail a|way from is a win
And not | every bloody pirate wants to doom himself to
swing.

BOB

I won't. I'm gonna die on the end of a sword. The pointy end.

DOBBIN

Well, I plan to retire. And soon.

BARNET

Like Henry Avery, you mean?

BOB

I know about Avery! King of the pirates! Do you think the crown will pass to Captain Jack?

BARNET

(laughs) Hardly!

DOBBIN

(sigh) No, lad.

BARNET

Henry | Avery attacked a convoy of twenty five

BOB

Twenty five ships! In one go?

BARNET

Aye!

In a | flash he became the richest pirate alive.

BOB

Cor! We should do that!

BARNET

And the navy never caught him
 It was freedom that his boldness bought him
 Did a few big raids, and then got out the game,
 Can you give me any reason why we shouldn't do the same?
 We should be seizing the moment
 Grasping nettles, stoking fires
 One or two big ships, and we'll all be rich
 And then Dobbin here can retire
 We have to carpe the diem
 Proper targets, proper gains
 If we shoot for the top, for the cream of the crop Then
 we'll never have to work again.

THOMAS

Maybe we should. Our last share was
 bloody peanuts.

BARNET

That's what I've been saying! We keep
 taking these tiny ships. And with
 every one, we up the odds of getting
 caught. I hate to say it... But
 Jack's putting us all in danger.

THOMAS

Hm. Never thought of it like that.

BARNET

And you know why, don't you?

BARNET

Female | influence - that's what's dampened his fire.
 And | rubbed away his manhood.
 And we | all know there's a lot of femininity
 on this ship.
 They say a woman on board's bad luck,
 And we've double the unluckiness for Captain Jack to—

[Anne and Read approach from a short distance. They're
 LAUGHING, holding the cat.]

ANNE

Aye aye Captain Crackles, put your
 claws away.

The cat COMPLAINS.

BOB
 (to A&M) Read! Bonny! Come hear me
 do the burp song!

BARNET
 Don't call them over.

Bob starts BURPING again.

DOBBIN
 Christ lad, give it a rest.

Anne and Read's voices get louder as they approach.

READ
 Anne, put her down. She's getting
 angry.

ANNE
 But she loves her mammy! Don't you
 Capt- ow!

The cat YOWLS and escapes.

READ
 (to Anne) Serves you right.
 Budge over, Bob.

BOB
 Read, Barnet was just saying that
 Jack's gonna get us k--

BARNET
 (interrupts) Fancy a drink, ladies?

ANNE
 What's that about Jack?

BARNET
 Oh, nothing.

BOB
 He said Jack's gonna get us killed
 and we should attack 25 ships at once
 and get rich and then disappear.

Bob BURPS. Beat.

BARNET
 Not *exactly* what I said...

DOBBIN
 Not far off.

READ

You've been talking about Avery,
then? Avery was lucky. That's all.

ANNE

It wasn't just luck. He was vicious.

DOBBIN

He'd torture folk for information.
Murder. Rape.

ANNE

Nothing was too much for Avery.

BARNET

Well, nobody's perfect. But
regardless, his strategy worked--

ANNE

His *strategy* involved torture and
rape. Or maybe you didn't hear that
part?

BARNET

All I'm saying--

READ

I think you've said enough.

BARNET

Don't you tell me what to do, Mary.

READ

(growls) I told you to call me Read,
not Mary. Everyone else seems to
manage, strange that you can't.

BARNET

ee? You can't stop yourself telling
me--

ANNE

--That's enough. Unless you want to
repeat everything to Jack.

Beat. Charged.

BARNET

Don't need to, do I? I'm sure you'll
tell him everything.

DOBBIN

(warning) Don't push it, Barnet.

BARNET

I'm entitled to an opinion. If these two want to tattle, *they're* the ones causing trouble, not me.
We were having fun 'til they arrived.

Unwilling to escalate, Anne SIGHS and stands to leave.

ANNE

Fine. We'll leave. Come on, Read.

BARNET

(sotto) Yes, trot along Mary. Time to spread your legs in the Captain's cabin.

A CHILLY hush descends.

READ

You got a death wish, Barnet?

BARNET

If truth is death, kill me, Mary.

READ

Don't tempt me.

ANNE

And what truth might you be speaking?

BARNET

The one that everyone knows.

BARNET CONT

Anne & Mary. Captain's favourites.
The crossed swords.
We all | know he's giving you more than your fair share
And I'm | not just talking about his length.
Every | man aboard complains of meagre profits.
How | strange the two of you say nothing of it.
He'll be skimming off the top for himself as well, no doubt.

ANNE

So we're thieves, are we? As well as whores? Anyone else think that?

THOMAS / DOBBIN / BOB

No! etc

BARNET

You bullied them into that.

READ

He's planting seeds. Sowing doubt. I wonder why. Wanna be captain yourself, do you?

BARNET

We deserve more!
That's all I'm saying!
We deserve a chance to be pirates!
Don't you want to be rich? Thomas? Bob?

THOMAS / BOB

Well... yeah (etc)

BARNET

Of course you do!
But | if it's ever going to happen
We're | going to have to get rid of Rackham
Any one of us would do a better job...
Especially me.

We... have... to...
Seize the moment
Bring the weakness to an end.
We will take what we lack
If we get rid of Jack
And we finally act like men.
And though it pains me to betray him
Jack is weak, and we're weak if we obey him.
If we stay on this course,
Then we're handing our balls
To a couple of—

READ

What? A couple of what?

BARNET

[deep breath]
To a couple of whores and their pimp.

READ (cont'd)

Right. I've had enough.

SCRAPE / SCHWING. Read withdraws their sword. Barnet withdraws his own.

ANNE

Read. Don't.

DOBBIN

Put your weapons away, both of you.

Read ATTACKS. CLANG! GRUNT! FIIIIIGHT!

ANNE
Stop it! Oh my God.

CLANG!

And then... Read slices Barnet's cheek open. PSSSSLIP!

BARNET
Arghhhh!

He DROPS his weapon and clutches his face.

BARNET (cont'd)
(strangled) My face! My face! You
bitch!

READ
You're lucky that's all I did.

ANNE
(panic) We're not supposed to fight!

BARNET
There's so much blood! (whimpers) You
cut me!

READ
Take it as a warning.

Barnet gives a SNIFFLY, HALF-CRYING, WOBBLY LAUGH.

BARNET
Wait 'til Jack hears about this.

READ
Have some dignity, mate.

BARNET
Jack won't have any choice; he'll
have to punish you. His favourite.
The captain has to uphold the rules.
Or surrender his right to be captain!

ANNE
Wait, Barnet... please, don't...

BARNET
Too late, whore. Do you know what the
penalty is for attacking another
pir... hoick!

DOBBIN grabs him.

DOBBIN
Hold up there, matey.

BARNET
Get off me!

DOBBIN
Calm down! Just getting a closer look, that's all! Oooh that's a nasty looking cut. (calls) Look everyone, Barnet slipped and hurt himself!

BARNET
What?

Anne LAUGHS.

ANNE
Oh no, Barnet! Oh no!

THOMAS
So clumsy when you're drunk, mate. Lucky you didn't fall overboard.

BOB
(realises) Ohhhh. I get it!

BARNET
No. No! Everyone saw what happened. Bob, you saw it.

BOB
Yeah, I did. Bit accident-prone, ain't cha?

BARNET
Bob!

DOBBIN
Bit of advice, Barnet; it'd be good for your health if you left the ship tonight. See that dinghy? Take it and get out of 'ere.

BARNET
We're two days from shore!

THOMAS
I'd do as he says, fella.

Barnet wrenches himself away, shaken.

BARNET

You're a bunch of hypocrites. You and your precious rules. You only follow them when it suits you.

ANNE

Y'know, if we followed the rules right now, you were encouraging *mutiny*. What's the penalty for that again? Oh yeah. Much worse than a cut on the cheek. Still want to tell Jack?

BARNET

(nervous) I wasn't... I was just talking. It wasn't *mutiny*.

THOMAS

We're giving you a way out.

ANNE

Take it before our mercy runs dry.

Beat. Lots of heavy breathing by Barnet.

BARNET

I will leave, and I'll be glad to.

Starts to leave.

BARNET (cont'd)

And one day soon, you'll all hang, and the world will be a better place for it!

Barnet makes his way to the dinghy.

BARNET (cont'd)

(distant) What are you looking at?

DOBBIN

(sighs) How am I going to explain this one to Jack?

READ

(mutters) This isn't the end of it. He won't stop here.

Sounds of the DINGHY BEING UNTIED.

SAILOR

(distant) What's Barnet doing with the dinghy?

DOBBIN

I don't bloody believe it.

ANNE

He's not even waiting until everyone's gone to sleep! What an eejit.

DOBBIN

(sighs) Come on, Thomas. Bob. Let's go distract the fellas while Barnet takes the dinghy.

They leave.

THOMAS

I've got an idea.
(calls) Hey fellas! (STARTS SINGING SEA SHANTY)

A CHEER goes up. They start singing.

Sea shanty (in background) - Such Sweet Revenge
Other sailors yearn for the pleasure of the land
But a pirate loves the sea
and it's haul, me hearts, heave ho
And we won't be still till we've treasure in our hands
And we're rich as rich can be.
and a-roving we will go
Oh the times be hard and the times be tough
But for now we'll sail and sing
And we won't bow down till our time is up
And we dance for the pleasure of the king, ohhh
Till we dance for the pleasure of the king.
We once were bound by unjust laws
And the whims of cruel men
and it's haul, me hearts, heave ho
But now we sail for our own reward
And we'll do so till our end
and a-roving we will go
Oh the times be hard and the times be tough
On the land and the great wide sea
But it truly is such sweet revenge
To be sailing bold and free, ohhh
To be sailing bold and free.
While a breath of wind is a very small thing
Many breaths can fill a sail
and it's haul, me hearts, heave ho
And if one voice sings and the many join in
Then the many will prevail
and a-roving we will go
Oh the times be hard and the times be tough
But we live and fight as one

And we'll keep our heads when the waves is rough
Till our roving days is done, ohhh
Till our roving days is done.

ANNE

I never trusted him. But I never
thought he'd--

Sound of pistol cocking.

ANNE (cont'd)

What're you doing?

READ

What does it look like? I'm going to
shoot him while he escapes.

ANNE

What?? You can't do that!

READ

He'll come after us. He knows where
we dock. Our routes. Our plans for
the next raid.

ANNE

But... it's not how we do things! He
won't bother us again. He's no
threat.

READ

I hurt his pride. He's vindictive...

ANNE

He has no honour, but we do--

READ

(interrupts) We can't risk it.

ANNE

Everything we do is risk! And we
don't murder our crew-mates! That's
not who we are!

READ

Who we are? You think you know me,
Anne. But I lived a whole life before
I got here. Do you think I never got
my hands dirty?

ANNE

The past doesn't matter, then! You
can start again here. Please, Read.
(soft, pleading) I don't want you to
be that.

Beat.

READ

(soft) Anne...
I won't try too hard to hit him.
Deal? Deal.

Read strides away.

ANNE

No! No deal!

READ

(shouts) BARNET'S STEALING THE
DINGHY! Don't worry lads, I'll get
him!

A PISTOL CRACK.

ANNE

Oh Read.

SAILOR

You missed! Try again!

Read shoots again - CRACK! - and, as we know, misses.