***Treasure Island***

***Chapter 13:***

# *How My Shore Adventure Began*

***Brief Summary:***

* The next morning Jim gets a clear look at the island: it's covered with grey, mournful-looking pine trees. There are also three rocky hills, the highest of which is the Spy-glass.
* The Spy-glass is the tallest spot on the island. It's sheer cliff on all sides, and the top is flat like a table.
* Jim hates the look of the island and is feeling miserable.
* Long John Silver steers the *Hispaniola* safely to a landing on the south side of the island.
* Doctor Livesey sniffs the air coming off the island and decides it's an unhealthy place for them to be.
* Now that they have arrived at the island, the men are barely even pretending to be obedient.
* To cover up for the men's bad behavior, Long John Silver does his best to be as obviously well-behaved as possible – he still doesn't want to tip off the Captain that they plan to mutiny.
* Captain Smollett, Squire Trelawney, and the other good guys all hold a meeting.
* Captain Smollett points out that Long John Silver is as eager to keep things calm as they are. He suggests they give all the men the afternoon off so Long John Silver will have time to convince them to stay calm.
* Squire Trelawney takes his servants Hunter, Joyce, and Redruth aside to tell them about the plot against him, the Captain, and Doctor Livesey. The three men pledge their loyalty.
* Captain Smollett tells the men to take the afternoon off, and they all lighten up and look happy.
* He leaves Long John Silver to arrange the landing parties.
* Jim has a sudden idea: he notices that Long John Silver only leaves six men on board the *Hispaniola*.
* Jim decides to sneak onto the island.
* He tries to slip unseen onto a boat rowing to the shore, but one of the rowers says his name, and Long John Silver clearly hears it.
* When Jim's boat reaches the shore, he jumps out and runs off, ignoring the sound of Long John Silver calling his name.

***Synopsis:***

Having approached the island in sweltering weather, the crew is irritable and discontent. Dr. Livesey warns the men that they may be at risk of contracting tropical diseases on the island. Silver, with his knowledge of the island’s geography, advises Captain Smollett of a good place to drop anchor. Smollett does not reveal what he knows about the planned mutiny. After consulting with Squire Trelawney, he decides to allow the crew to go ashore for diversion, which allows the honest men to reclaim control of the ship.

Smollett takes Tom Redruth and several other honest sailors into his confidence and gives them weapons. Silver leads the pirates ashore, believing that they will be able to recover the treasure immediately. Jim, deciding that his assistance is not needed on board, hides in one of the pirates’ boats and goes ashore with them. However, Silver catches sight of Jim, who begins to regret his decision. Reaching the shore before the others, Jim quickly scrambles away from them.

***Notes:***

The next morning, the weather is hot and gloomy, and the island looks gray and sad. Several men go ashore to do some work, and Jim goes along. He is surprised at the way they act. On the journey to the island, they were cheerful and quick to follow commands. Today, they act lazy and avoid their duties. They all look angry and resentful, and anyone can see that they might stage their mutiny soon. Only Long John Silver is still pretending to be a good crewman. He quickly obeys every command, and he sings cheerfully whenever he is not working—almost as if he is trying to make it appear that nothing is wrong. His attitude 14 prevents the pirates from beginning their fight, but it is also a bit unnerving for Jim and his friends. Now that they know that Silver is dishonest, his acting skills seem almost scary. Captain Smollett holds a meeting of the loyal men, including Jim, and says that the situation looks very bad. If he shouts at the men for their behavior, they might fight back immediately, before the loyal men get a chance to take a good tactical position. However, if Captain Smollett does not shout at the men, the mutineers may suspect that he knows something. It is clear that, although the crew is itching for freedom, Long John Silver does not want the battle to happen yet. The captain decides to give the crew an afternoon’s rest on shore. His hope is that Silver will go along and convince the other sailors to wait a while before the rebellion. If Jim’s friends are very lucky, the whole crew will go ashore in the lifeboats. This will give the captain’s men the chance to attack from the high ground of the ship’s decks when the mutineers return. After the captain offers the men an afternoon off, Jim watches Silver organize them into boats to row ashore. The seven people known to be loyal to the captain are all expected to stay on the ship, but Jim sees that Silver is leaving a few of his own men, too. Jim knows that his friends will not be able to plan a surprise attack with Silver’s coconspirators on board. So Jim makes a quick decision, not yet knowing that it will help him become a hero. He hops into one of the boats and goes to shore with Silver and the rest of the sailors. On shore, Silver calls to Jim to stay close—but Jim disobeys. He runs into the bushes and gets away.

***Analysis Ch 13:***

In Chapter 13 ("How My Shore Adventure Began") Jim recalls waking in the morning to find the ship becalmed southeast of what he now begins to call Treasure Island, a place of dismal-looking woods and oddly shaped hills, whose appearance he finds unpleasant. There is no wind, so the men must get in boats and row, hauling the ship several miles up the island's eastern coast and into a narrow strait between it and a smaller island (Skeleton Island) to be anchored in this haven. Jim, in the boat commanded by the boatswain Anderson, sees that the men are in a surly mood. It's a breezeless, hot day, and after all have returned to the ship, Livesey says the air smells of fever.

In the cabin, Trelawney's party holds a council, and Smollett says the crew will mutiny immediately if something is not done, but that Silver will keep them from it if he is allowed to take the men ashore for the afternoon. They call in Trelawney's servants, Hunter, Joyce, and Redruth, tell them what's going on, and all seven, including Jim, are armed with pistols. Silver arranges a shore party of thirteen in two boats, leaving six men (along with the squire's group) on board, and at the last minute Jim, on impulse, gets into one of the boats. This boat reaches shore before Silver's boat, and although Jim hears Silver calling to him, he jumps out and runs through a thicket, away from the group on shore.

***Critical Study:***

Jim is seasick as this chapter begins, and is sickened at the sight of the island, which is not what he expected. As the men row the boats through a narrow passage, because the wind is still and they need to man the boat, Jim notices that discipline has been relaxed because they are so near Treasure Island. There is no sight that any humans are on the island, but there is a repugnant smell and Dr. Livesey suspects that this is because of illness on the island. Once they return to the ship, the men only grudgingly obey the orders because they are disappointed to be back on the ship. Only Long John Silver is willingly to cheerfully obey the orders, and advises his colleagues to do the same.

Realizing that the men's mood might lead to immediate mutiny, the captain allows the men to go ashore. Long John Silver, however, leaves six men on board the ship so that the six honest men cannot overtake the ship. At the last second, Jim slips into one of the boats in order that he can go ashore as well. When the boat reaches the shore, Jim hears Long John Silver call his name and in order to avoid detection, runs off as fast as possible, ignoring Silver's call.

Part III, that this chapter begins, marks another departure in the mood of the island. No longer are they in route to the island, and thus in between savagery and civilization, but the savagery that represents the island is beginning to creep into the narrative. Once the crew and the ship reach the island, everything will be markedly different. The fact that the men no longer want to obey their orders immediately when they get to the island is the first sign that savagery, instead of civilization, will dominate the action in this part of the world.

In the last few chapters, much more distinguishing characteristics have been given to Long John Silver. Clearly, Silver is much more calm, level, etc. than the rest of the pirates, especially the hot-tempered Pew or what we know of Flint. In the coming clash between good and bad, the evil and the honest, the only character who is ambivalent is Long John Silver, who is both good and bad. Although Jim thinks at this point in the narration that he is completely evil, Long John Silver is not like the rest of the pirates and will show that he is morally ambiguous, representing neither the good nor the bad.

The other thing that is worth noting is the description and setting of this chapter. As Jim describes the grayness and wildness of the tresses and the cliffs, the "poisonous brightness" of the foliage, and especially the smell of death on the island, the overwhelming mood that is set is one that suggests despair, death, and disease. Above all, it is not only sad but also sinister.

***Critical Analysis:***

By the next morning, the ship is close enough to the island to afford Jim a better look. It is far from the island paradise of his imagination, with melancholy, gray-colored woods and wild, spire-like hills of naked rock. In fact, from his first look at it, Jim hates the very thought of Treasure Island.

Because there is no wind, the men must haul the ship by boats to the place of safe anchorage. There is a marked change in their demeanor. Their past brisk willingness to work deteriorates into grumbling. Seeing the change in mood, [Captain Smollett](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/Treasure-Island/character-analysis/#Captain_Smollett) decides to help him out by giving the men permission to go ashore for the afternoon. The longer a confrontation can be delayed, the better.

Silver makes the arrangements, leaving six of his men aboard while the rest take boats to shore. Quietly, Captain Smollett issues pistols to the honest men and lets them in on the buccaneers' plot. As the boats are leaving, Jim on impulse stows away in one.

There is nothing cheerful about this chapter. The island is dismal to look at and smells unhealthy, the day is gloomy, the mood of the men is ominous, and even Silver is worried that things are going wrong. As the mood among the buccaneers darkens and the crisis builds, [Captain Smollett](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/Treasure-Island/character-analysis/#Captain_Smollett) proves his worth. He assesses the situation, recognizes the danger, discerns Silver's intention to maintain control of the mutiny, and uses it to avert a confrontation.

Jim's reckless behavior in stowing away on the boat is the first of many such incidents. Without thought he leaves his companions and never considers the consequences. There is safety in numbers, and now the honest party has been split up. Even so, [Dr. Livesey](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/Treasure-Island/character-analysis/#Dr._Livesey) will eventually admit that, while Jim has often acted impulsively and broken the rules, "Every step, it's you that saves our lives." But now there is grave danger in Jim's stunt, foreshadowed by Silver's shout of "Jim! Jim!" For reasons as yet unknown, Silver is anxious that the boy not run off by himself.

***Summary and Analysis Part by Part:***

***Summary Part 1:***

The next morning the ship has floated to the south-eastern part of the island, and they can see hills and pine trees with the Spy-glass rising up strangely from among them. The Hispaniola lists from side to side in the swell, and [Jim](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/jim-hawkins), feeling seasick, begins to hate the very thought of Treasure Island.

***Analysis Part 1:***

The island is described vividly in this passage, reminding us of how eager Jim was to reach such novel, exciting places. That he’s unable to enjoy it now speaks to just how much he’s learned about the dangers awaiting him.

***Summary part 2:***

[Jim](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/jim-hawkins) decides to help row one of the boats to land, and is made nervous by the way the crew is now grumbling. They row to shore, where there is no breeze and a strange smell of rotting—[Dr. Livesey](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/doctor-livesey) sniffs and declares that fever is certainly present.

***Analysis Part 2:***

Jim knows that the crew has planned to mutiny once they’ve arrived at the island, but he doesn’t know exactly when or how it will happen, so he’s constantly on edge.

***Summary Part 3:***

[Silver](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/long-john-silver) is the only cheerful one, as if he’s masking the others’ discontent. [Jim](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/jim-hawkins), [Smollett](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/captain-smollett), the [squire](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/squire-trelawney), and the [doctor](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/doctor-livesey) reconvene in the cabin that evening. Smollett proposes they allow the men to go ashore for the afternoon: if they all go, they can fight; if only some go, Silver will surely pacify them and bring them back aboard without anything coming to a head. They tell [Hunter](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters), [Joyce](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters), and [Redruth](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters) (the faithful sailors) of the plan, and then the captain announces to the hands that they’re permitted to go ashore.

***Analysis Part 3:***

It’s difficult for Jim and his friends to know how to respond—whether they acknowledge anything to be awry or not, or how long they wait before mounting a defense themselves. They can be confident that at least a few of the sailors aboard the ship will remain loyal to them, and yet for now all they can hope to do is buy some time to make longer-term plans.

***Summary Part 4:***

Thirteen men leave, with [Silver](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/long-john-silver), while six remain aboard. [Jim](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/jim-hawkins) realizes that with six enemies still aboard, they cannot hope to fight and keep the ship, while since it is only six, he himself isn’t needed—so he can go ashore as well. He quickly rows to the beach, jumps out, and races into the island.

***Analysis Part 4:***

Jim, in turn, is completing his own kinds of calculations. He is motivated both by a genuine desire to help out the captain and his friends, and by an innate sense of curiosity that propels him onto the island.