***Treasure Island***

***Chapter 16:***

# *The Stockade(How the ship was abandoned)*

***Brief Summary:***

* At 1:30, two boatloads of sailors row ashore from the Hispaniola. One of them is humming an Irish marching song, "Lillibullero" ([**click here to listen**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/northernireland/learning/william/flash/lillibullero/lillibullero.shtml)).
* Tom Redruth comes to tell Doctor Livesey that Jim Hawkins has also slipped ashore.
* Doctor Livesey is worried for Jim's safety.
* Livesey feels restless and decides to use a tiny rowboat to go ashore with Hunter in secret to look for information.
* Doctor Livesey finds an abandoned fort at the top of a hill. The best part of the fort is that it has a spring of fresh water. While the ship is well-provisioned and would be easy to defend, there isn't enough water on board for a long battle against the pirates.
* Doctor Livesey hears a scream (the same scream that Jim heard just before Long John Silver murdered Tom in Chapter 14).
* Doctor Livesey thinks it's Jim who's been killed.
* Livesey and Hunter rush back to the ship.
* Squire Trelawney is sitting aboard the Hispaniola thinking that it's Doctor Livesey and Hunter who were killed.
* Captain Smollett points out that one of the six sailors left aboard the ship turned pale when he heard the scream.
* Captain Smollett thinks that man will join the loyal party.
* Doctor Livesey explains his plan to use the abandoned stockade to defend themselves.
* They secretly load up the tiny rowboat with ammunition and provisions.
* Meanwhile, the Captain and Squire Trelawney stay on deck.
* Finally, the charade is over: Squire Trelawney takes out his pistol and tells Israel Hands (the leader of the six sailors still aboard the ship, who are pretending to be loyal) to freeze.
* The six sailors are totally confused, but since they are surrounded – with Squire Trelawney and Captain Smollett on one end of the ship and Redruth on the other – they obediently go below decks.
* During all this activity, Doctor Livesey, Hunter, and Joyce manage to set off for shore in their rowboat filled with provisions.
* They unload the rowboat into the fort, then Doctor Livesey and Hunter row back to the Hispaniola. Joyce stays behind to guard the fort, armed with six guns.
* Back on the Hispaniola, they load up the rowboat a second time. They dump all of the guns and ammunition they don't have room for over the side of the ship so the pirates can't use them.
* The tide is starting to go out, and they hear the sounds of the two boatloads of men coming back from their day on the island.
* Doctor Livesey, Squire Trelawney, and Redruth get into the rowboat.
* (There's a tiny mistake here – Livesey says that both Hunter and Joyce are on shore at the fort [4.16.25], but he said that Joyce is alone just four paragraphs earlier. Here we see the value of close proofreading!)
* They paddle around to the front of the boat where the six sailors are trapped below the deck.
* They hear Captain Smollett's voice from the deck of the ship.
* Captain Smollett is ordering the sailor they thought might be loyal out of the six – Abraham Gray – to join their party.
* They hear the sounds of a fight below the decks, and Abraham Gray bursts out and runs over to Captain Smollett.
* Captain Smollett and Abraham Gray drop aboard the tiny rowboat, and they all set off for shore.

***Synopsis:***

In the first chapter of the novel's fourth part ("Narrative Continued by the Doctor: How the Ship Was Abandoned"), and in the two chapters that follow, Dr. Livesey is the narrator, relating the experiences of Trelawney's group that take place during Jim's separation from it. On board the ship in the early afternoon, Hunter tells the others that Jim has gone ashore, and they fear for his life. They know there's no point in overpowering the six mutineers left on board, for there is no wind to carry the ship back to sea, so after a while, Livesey and Hunter take a boat and row to the island to see whether they can find out what has happened to Jim. The two mutineers left to guard the shore party's boats see them but decide to stay where they are, and Livesey and Hunter steer around a bend, out of their sight. The doctor goes ashore. Within a hundred yards he discovers a stockade, a large blockhouse of logs equipped with firing ports, enclosing a clear spring of water, and itself enclosed by a strong six-foot fence without an opening. Because this structure is near the top of a hill, Livesey knows that a small group could hold it against a much larger force — indefinitely, if they had food and ammunition and kept close watch to avoid a surprise. As he thinks this, he hears the death-cry that Jim reported in the preceding part, and he believes that Jim has been killed. He runs to the boat where Hunter is waiting and they go back to the ship, where the rest of their group and one of the six remaining hands have been shaken by the cry.

Telling the coxswain, Israel Hands, that anyone who signals to Silver's shore party will be shot, they load the boat with supplies, muskets, and ammunition. The six mutineers hurry below, but Redruth has been set to watch them, and they are trapped below decks. Joyce, Hunter, and Livesey take the boat ashore again and, as one of the watchers there runs to inform Silver of this, they take the supplies to the stockade and leave them with Joyce as guard. Hunter and Livesey return for a second load, and then Livesey alone rows back to the ship. He, Trelawney, Redruth, and Smollett load the boat again with as much as it can carry and drop the rest of the arms and their powder overboard. These four are ready to abandon the ship to the mutineers when Smollett calls to one of the men below, Abraham Gray, and orders him to come with them. There is a scuffle among the mutineers and then Gray, cut in the face, comes out and joins them. They shove off from the ship and strike out for shore.

***Notes:***

At this point, the story leaves Jim Hawkins behind for a little while. Dr. Livesey takes over the narration and explains what happens on the Hispaniola while Jim is gone. The captain strongly considers launching an attack on the six mutineers who are still on board the ship. His men would probably win because they control the weapons, and because they have the advantage of surprise. However, there is no wind, so the captain’s men have no chance of sailing away after their victory. Also, Captain Smollett and 16 his friends soon learn that Jim Hawkins has left the ship. They cannot leave Jim behind, so they watch and wait instead. After a while, Dr. Livesey and one of Mr. Trelawney’s friends, Hunter, go ashore to explore. They find a stockade, probably built by Captain Flint. This is a low house on top of a hill, with the land around it cleared of any bushes that might provide cover for attackers. There is a tall fence around the compound, and there are plenty of holes in the walls of the house so that the people inside can shoot muskets from positions of relative safety. Dr. Livesey is particularly pleased to see a small spring filled with fresh drinking water nearby. He immediately decides to move his friends to the spot. Just as Dr. Livesey makes this decision, he hears the cry of Alan, the first man who gets murdered by the mutineers. The doctor thinks he is hearing Jim’s murder, but he refuses to allow himself to succumb to his grief and fear. As a doctor, he has plenty of experience making decisions during times of death. He sticks to his decision to move to the stockade, and he immediately puts the plan into action. Dr. Livesey goes back to the Hispaniola and explains his plan. The first thing the captain's men do is subdue the six mutineers on board. The mutineers are unarmed, so the captain and Mr. Trelawney threaten them with pistols. To avoid getting shot, the mutineers decide to wait quietly in the cabin. Meanwhile, the doctor and a couple of other loyal men load a boat with weapons and food. They take these supplies to shore and carry them to the stockade. Dr. Livesey leaves a man in the stockade with six loaded muskets and goes back to get the captain and another load of food and weapons. They do not have time to carry a third load, so they sink all of the remaining weapons and ammunition to the bottom of the sea. This will prevent Long John Silver and the other mutineers from using them. Before leaving the Hispaniola, Captain Smollett shouts through the doorway of the room where the six mutineers are sitting. He offers them a chance to come over and fight for the right side. There is the sound of a scuffle, and then one man, Abraham Gray, emerges. He has a cut on his cheek, but he is otherwise unharmed. “I’m with you, sir,” he says to Captain Smollett.

***Analysis Ch 16:***

In a break from the rest of the novel, this chapter (along with others that followed) is narrated by [Dr. Livesey](https://www.gradesaver.com/treasure-island/study-guide/character-list#dr-livesey). The timeframe of this chapter is the same as the previous chapter, narrated by Jim. He begins his narration by explaining that, although the good men on board wanted to attack the pirates, they could not because Jim was on shore and they could not leave them behind. Instead, the two men, Livesey and Hunter, decide to take a boat to shore and go to a place that is around the bend, and consequently, out of the guards' sight.

Exploring the island, Dr. Livesey discovers a stockade, a group of logs that would hold a great number of people (about 40, according to Dr. Livesy). More significantly, whoever controls the house would control the entire island, because of it's vantage on a hill. Another significant advantage of the house is that there is a source of freshwater, of which their is a shortage on the island. While on the island, he (like Jim) hears the death of Alan, and he supposes that Jim has been killed.

After their expedition, Hunter and Livesey return to the Hispanolia, and Livesy tells the captain of his newly formulated plan. [Redruth](https://www.gradesaver.com/treasure-island/study-guide/character-list" \l "redruth), one of the good men, guards the gallery between the cabin and the forecastle, where the six mutineers are standing. Hunter is assigned to man the boat and Livesey and Joyce fill the boat with supplies, food, and medicine. Meanwhile, on deck, the captain warns [Israel Hands](https://www.gradesaver.com/treasure-island/study-guide/character-list#israel-hands), the leader of the mutineers on ship, that he or the squire will kill anyone on the shore. By tricking the pirates, he corners them into the bottom of the ship where they stay. Finally, Livesey, Hunter and Joyce return to the shore and stow their supplies in the log cabin. Unfortunately, the pirate guards on shore spot them and one disappears, presumably to warn the others. Leaving Joyce to guard the stockade, Livesey and Hunter return to the ship for another load. They feel safer in the second trip because they have muskets, which will shoot at a longer range than the pistols, the only ammunition that the pirates have. Finally, all six of them leave the ship and the squire and the doctor drop the rest of the arms and ammunition that they cannot transport into the water. Smollett also brings Abraham Gray, whom they believe to be a good man, and Gray agrees. The captain and Gray are the last men on board and the men finally leave for shore.

The major difference between this chapter and the previous ones is the shift in narration, from Jim Hawkins to the Dr. Livesey. This shift was necessary in order to ensure that a first-hand account can be told of the events that Jim was not a witness to, because he was on land. Within the narration, there are certain clues that that Jim is no longer the narrator, including comments about places that might be likely breeding places for disease and comments concerning his time in the military.

It is also interesting to contrast the two different narration techniques. First, Jim's technique allows the reader to gain much more insight into the feelings and emotions that he feels, a typical aspect given his young age. Livesy, whose account is very factual and contains plenty of detail, does not let the reader into what he is thinking or feeling, on the other hand. A good example of this is Livesey response when he believes that Jim has been killed. The only thing that he does is report that "Jim Hawkins is dead," and then simply moves on.

In the trend of the theme, at this point in the novel, the reader believes that the "good guys" are winning, that is, that the good is triumphing over evil like it should. The "honest men" have been able to decipher the despicable men's plan, Jim was able to escape from the clutches of Long John Silver, and the men were able to gather control of the fort and escape with the supplies. This, however, seems too easy to the reader and the reader realizes that the good has not triumphed in the war over evil, they have merely won a series of small battles.

***Critical Study:***

At this point [Dr. Livesey](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/Treasure-Island/character-analysis/#Dr._Livesey) takes over the story's narration. He, [Squire Trelawney](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/Treasure-Island/character-analysis/#Squire_Trelawney), and a few honest men have been left aboard the *Hispaniola* with six mutineers. Rather than wait for the other pirates to return, the doctor and the squire's manservant, John Hunter, go ashore in the jolly-boat. There, they use the map to locate an old stockade.

As the doctor thinks over the benefits of this shelter, a cry of violent death rings over the island. He decides on the spot that the stockade will provide better protection than the ship for the remaining honest men. Speeding back to the *Hispaniola*, he directs the loading of guns, powder, medicine, and food supplies, while the captain and Tom Redruth keep the six pirates at bay.

Before abandoning the ship, [Captain Smollett](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/Treasure-Island/character-analysis/#Captain_Smollett) gives the mutineers one last chance to switch sides and give him their loyalty. In particular he appeals to Abraham Gray, who decides to side with the captain.

The full title of this chapter is "How the Ship Was Abandoned; Narrative Continued by the Doctor." In this and the next two chapters, [Dr. Livesey](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/Treasure-Island/character-analysis/#Dr._Livesey) assumes the job of narrator to fill in that part of the story that Jim cannot know firsthand. The chapter introduces events leading up to the battle that draws Jim and Ben Gunn to the coast.

Dr. Livesey's point of view takes in the smells of the island, as might be expected of a physician. He also appreciates the log house spring's healthful clear water, recognizes the cry of violent death, and makes sure that his medicine chest is safely transferred to the stockade.

Once again an animal motif is used to reveal the character of two men. It is also used to highlight the difference between them. [Captain Smollett](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/Treasure-Island/character-analysis/#Captain_Smollett) calls the traitorous coxswain, Israel Hands, a dog, and Dr. Livesey labels him and his mates "faint-hearted seamen." In this context the term *dog* is unflattering and conjures the image of a slinking, cowardly animal. On the other hand, the doctor describes Abraham Gray as coming "like a dog to a whistle" when he breaks from his mates to join the honest party. This is a positive comparison, evoking the image of a loyal and trustworthy animal. Once Gray demonstrates that he is a civilized man, the animal motif no longer applies.

***Critical Analysis:***

Dr. Livesey takes over the narration at this point, beginning his story at the mutineers’ departure for the island. Discovering that Jim is with the mutineers, Livesey and Captain Smollett fear for Jim’s safety, and agree that Livesey should go ashore along with Hunter, Squire Trelawney’s servant. Once ashore, Livesey comes upon a stockade Flint’s men built years earlier, near a spring.

Returning to the ship, Livesey tells the others what he has found. The men load two boats with provisions, taking the risk that they may arouse the suspicions of the mutineers onshore. Captain Smollett gives Abraham Gray, a sailor who has fallen in with the mutineers, a last chance to join him and his crew. Gray scuffles onto the boat, and they head for shore.

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

***Summary Part 1:***

This section is narrated by [Dr. Livesey](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/doctor-livesey), who describes how he, [Smollett](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/captain-smollett), and the [squire](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/squire-trelawney) wondered if they could conquer the six pirates left on the Hispaniola and sail off, but there was no wind, and they realized [Jim](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/jim-hawkins) had slipped ashore too. Dr. Livesey decides to go ashore as well with [Hunter](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters): as they approach, several of the sailors catch sight of them and stop talking.

***Analysis Part 1:***

As the narration switches to the doctor’s point of view, it becomes clearer just how thoughtless Jim’s decision to slip away had been. Still, it gives the doctor and another crewman more of an opportunity to develop another plan.

***Summary part 2:***

[Dr. Livesey](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/doctor-livesey) begins to explore the island and soon, atop a knoll, he comes across a log-house: it was, at some point, set up as a defense and shelter, and with easy access to a spring. Suddenly the doctor hears a death-cry and immediately fears it’s [Jim](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/jim-hawkins). He quickly returns to the shore with [Hunter](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters). They paddle back to the ship and begin to load the small boat with arms and food.

***Analysis Part 2:***

Although the island had seemed austere and uninhabited, the presence of Ben Gunn, plus this log-house, proves that others have explored the place before. Now the doctor is preparing for a more drawn-out battle with the pirates.

***Summary Part 3:***

Meanwhile [Smollett](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/captain-smollett) tells [Hands](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters), who has stayed aboard, not to make any signal or he’ll be killed. Hands sees that [Redruth](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters) is armed, and sneaks back down below-deck. [Dr. Livesey](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/doctor-livesey) and [Joyce](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters), this time, paddle back to shore and begin to stock the log-house with provisions. The doctor leaves Joyce there, confident that their side has the advantage in arms. Once he’s back on the ship, the doctor hears the captain order [Abraham Gray](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters) to leave the ship with him. He gives him thirty seconds, and finally Gray rushes out to deck and declares his loyalty to the captain. They all leave the ship behind.

***Analysis Part 3:***

The captain is playing a delicate balancing act: he and Hands both know that they are evenly matched aboard the ship, and now both sides recognize the other to be the enemy, and yet it makes more sense to hold off a real battle until better plans emerge later on. Although the captain’s side is still disadvantaged in terms of numbers, Gray shows a last-minute sign of loyalty to the group.