***Treasure Island***

***Chapter 18:***

***Narrative Continued by the Doctor: End of the First Day’s Fighting***

***Brief Summary:***

* The landing party reaches the stockade just as a group of seven mutineers appear, led by Job Anderson.
* The mutineers seem really surprised, so Squire Trelawney, Doctor Livesey, Hunter, and Joyce all have time to fire first.
* One of the mutineers drops and the rest of them scatter at the gunfire.
* The landing party is really happy – until a bullet flies out of the trees and hits poor Tom Redruth, Squire Trelawney's loyal gamekeeper.
* Doctor Livesey can see at once that it's curtains for Redruth.
* Trelawney is crying like a baby. He asks Redruth for forgiveness.
* Redruth says there's no need, and that what's meant to happen will happen.
* Redruth asks them to read a prayer over him, then he passes away.
* Meanwhile, Captain Smollett is unpacking all the things he brought with him stuffed in his coat: a British flag, a Bible, a coil of rope, pen, ink, the ship's log (where all the events of the voyage are recorded), and lots of tobacco.
* Captain Smollett raises the British flag above the fort. He also has an extra flag to spread over Redruth's body.
* Captain Smollett then pulls Doctor Livesey aside and asks how long they should expect to have to hole up in this fort.
* Doctor Livesey admits that no one's going to come after them until August (months from now!)
* Captain Smollett notes that they're in a tough spot – in fact, one good thing about Redruth's death is that they have one fewer mouth to feed.
* A couple of cannons go over the stockade, but the pirates can't get good aim from the *Hispaniola*. (They're firing round-shots, by the way, which are cannonballs that don't explode – luckily for Doctor Livesey, Squire Trelawney, and the rest!).
* Squire Trelawney points out that the pirates are probably aiming for the flag, which is the only thing visible in the forest from the ship.
* Captain Smollett refuses to lower the flag, and everyone is comforted by his bravery. They start ignoring the cannons going overhead.
* Captain Smollett says the forest is probably clear of pirates, since they're willing to fire at the trees like this.
* Captain Smollett suggests that a couple of them go out at night to find what can be recovered of their supplies. Now that the tide has gone out, Captain Smollett hopes that the tiny rowboat will be visible again above the water.
* Gray and Hunter steal out of the fort to take a look.
* They find, unfortunately, that the pirates have gotten there first.
* All the pirates also seem to be armed – apparently, they brought their own weapons aboard the ship, which Captain Smollett was unaware of.
* Captain Smollett sits down to write a diary entry about the day, including the death of Tom Redruth.
* Doctor Livesey wonders what has happened to Jim Hawkins.
* Just then, they hear a voice calling out a greeting. It's none other than Jim, climbing over the fence of the fort.

***Synopsis:***

The five men wade to shore (Chapter 18, "Narrative Continued by the Doctor: End of the First Day's Fighting") and run for the stockade, hearing the pirates who remained on shore coming toward them. Both groups reach the enclosure at the same time. Trelawney and Livesey, along with Hunter and Joyce from the blockhouse, fire their muskets at the mutineers (who are armed only with pistols and have not reached their weapons' range), hitting one. The others run for the trees. Still outside the stockade fence, Livesey and the others find that the fallen man is dead. But then one of the men in the trees shoots Redruth with a pistol, and, after he is brought into the blockhouse, the old gamekeeper dies.

Captain Smollett has brought his English flag ashore, and now he sets it on a pole above the stockade. The ship's gun continues to fire on them, to little effect, for they are nearly out of its range. Smollett tells the doctor that they have plenty of arms but that, having lost most of their food when the boat sank, they will not be able to survive long, and he asks about the consort that Trelawney arranged at Bristol to come after them if they were late in returning. He is told that it will be a matter of months before help arrives, far too long, and so he sends two of the men to salvage what they can from the sunken boat, which will now be exposed at low tide. But they find that the mutineers are ahead of them, already bringing up these supplies, and that they have somehow armed themselves with muskets from what must have been a secret store. The captain has begun a log, setting down their names and situation, when Jim Hawkins, coming over the wall of the stockade, hails them.

***Notes:***

The pirates chase Dr. Livesey and the rest of Captain Smollett’s men through the wooded parts of the island. The captain, who is not a very good shot, gives his musket to Mr. Trelawney, whose own weapon is soaked with seawater. Just as they reach the stockade, Mr. Trelawney and Dr. Livesey shoot at their pursuers. One of these shots kills a man, and the other pirates run for cover in the trees. From there, the pirates shoot Redruth, Mr. Trelawney’s friend and servant from home. Dr. Livesey shoots again, and the pirates flee. It is clear at once that Redruth will die of his wound. Dr. Livesey does his best to make the man comfortable, and Redruth says that he wishes he had had the chance to shoot a pirate before being killed. Before losing consciousness, he asks the other men to say a prayer for him. While his companions care for Redruth, Captain Smollett unloads his coat pockets, and the others see that he has brought several objects of symbolic comfort, including a British flag and a Bible. His first action is to raise the flag, and he clearly feels more comfortable as soon as the colors are flying overhead. Next, he examines the stores of food and weapons. Redruth dies, but there is no time to mourn. The pirates may attack again at any moment, and the captain's men know that they may be under siege in the stockade for weeks or even months. Unfortunately, in their flight from the Hispaniola, they only managed to transport enough food to last ten days. As this grim fact sinks in, a cannonball sails over the stockade. Surprisingly, the captain seems glad about this. He explains that the pirates are highly unlikely to hurt them with the cannon, and that any attempts to do so will simply waste their gunpowder. In the next few hours, several more cannonballs fly overhead, slamming into the sandy yard or the woods beyond. One even comes through the roof, but it does not hurt anyone. 18 During this onslaught, the captain sends two men down to the swamped boat to try to recover the ham, which is the only food that might have survived the dunking in the sea. Unfortunately, these men find that the pirates have already retrieved the usable food. When night arrives, the rain of cannonballs stops. The captain sits down at a desk and writes out a short description of their situation, along with the names of the few loyal men. When he comes to Jim Hawkins, he pauses. Nobody is sure if the cabin boy is alive or dead. As they reflect on this fact, they hear a shout. They run to the doorway to see Jim himself climbing into the stockade.***Analysis Ch 18:***

Captain Smollett and his group make their way to the stockade and pause to reload their guns. Coming upon the pirate they have just killed, they rejoice in their success. At this instant Tom Redruth is shot. His wound is clearly fatal, and the group helps him to lie down and die nobly. Squire Trelawney kisses Tom’s hand and asks for his forgiveness. All agree that he has nothing to fear in the afterworld, as he has died in the line of duty.

Trapped in the stockade, the group is bombarded by cannon fire throughout the evening. The pirates aim at the Union Jack in particular, but Smollett refuses to take in the flag. He makes an entry in his logbook of those in the stockade, while Livesey wonders what has happened to Jim. Just at this moment, Jim suddenly enters.

***Critical Study:***

Picking up directly where the last chapter left off, the squire's men race desperately for the stockade and encounter six pirates just before they get to their destination. In the ensuing shoot out, one of the pirates gets shot and dies before the rest run off. Before they leave, the pirates shoot Redruth, the squire's gamekeeper, who dies after he is carried into the log house. The squire, finally overcome with grief and fear, breaks down crying. To signal their victory, the captain runs one British flag from the roof and covers Redruth with another, consoling the squire.

The next matter of business is to find out when someone would find them. The squire informs the group that no one will come for months, and the captain then tells the group that the food rations are sparse. During this conversation, the cannon continues to blast, sending shot after shot at the blockade but causing no real damage. Trelwaney suggests taking down the flag because it seems to be a target for the enemy but captain insists on leaving it up, claiming it shows the enemy their courage, resolve, and fighting spirit. After the tide went out, the captain sends Gray and Hunter to try to recover any of the lost supplies, but the supplies were already taken by Silver's men. The pirates now are fully armed.

Just as the captain writes in his log and tries to speculate on Jim's fate, Jim appears at the stockade, hailing the men and gaining entrance.

The theme of death once again permiates upon this chapter. This time, however, the death is not suppressed as it has been previously, but instead the squire, at least, actually mourns. Part of this is due to the narrator shift, because the reader is no longer experiencing this from the vantage of a young boy. Another reason might be that the death this time is of someone innocent to the action, not a villain but merely an assistant to one of the "good guys." His death seems more innocent than the death of [Pew](https://www.gradesaver.com/treasure-island/study-guide/character-list#pew) or the other pirates, even the sailors that died in the previous chapter.

The class system of 18th and 19th century England is readily apparent in this chapter. When Redruth is lying on his death bed, even at this point the narrator speaks in a condescending tone, portraying him in a classic stereotype of the faithful, uncomplaining old servant whose sole desire in life is to serve his master. More surprisingly, even Redruth himself maintains his place, even while he is dying. Adding insult to injury, the captain tells the squire that he shouldn't mourn for the man, because he was merely doing his job. Also, in listing the men who remain, the captain does not indicate their names, but rather their status on the ship. This attitude, common in the time the novel is set and was written, might seem odd and discriminatory to the modern audience.

Again, one of the things that make this chapter so rich is the descriptions of the sights and sounds of the island. Critics often question where Stevenson was able to garner the immense amount of detail on the island. Although he had not yet made his own expedition to the West Indies (where the retired, later in his life), Stevenson used much of the details of the scenery from his memories of California, where he was married to his wife. Together with literary sources and the own imagination, the result is an extraordinary exercise in precision. The fact that the island doesn't exist is almost a disappointment and something that the reader must suspend himself from in order to enjoy the book.

***Critical Analysis:***

The doctor continues his narrative, describing the rush to reach the stockade. As he and the others arrive, seven mutineers led by Job Anderson appear "in full cry." The squire and the doctor, as well as Hunter and Joyce from inside the stockade, return fire, killing one man. The others scatter. Then a shot rings out and Tom Redruth falls. Though he hangs on a little while, his wound is mortal and he dies.

The captain takes [Dr. Livesey](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/Treasure-Island/character-analysis/#Dr._Livesey) aside to discuss their situation. It seems they cannot depend on a rescue ship arriving in time, rations are short, and they are outnumbered. All seems so bleak, that the captain sits down to record their last stand. Then a shout from outside the stockade brightens the moment. It's Jim, climbing over the palisade.

*End of the First Day's Fighting; Narrative Continued by the Doctor* is the full title of this last entry by [Dr. Livesey](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/Treasure-Island/character-analysis/#Dr._Livesey).

The day's victory over the mutineers takes a dark turn when Tom Redruth is fatally wounded. Now [Squire Trelawney](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/Treasure-Island/character-analysis/#Squire_Trelawney)'s greed for gold—though he had no ill-intent—ends in the death of a faithful servant.

The virtues of duty and honor play a strong role in these events. Joyce and Hunter—the men positioned inside and guarding the stockade—stand firm and do their duty when the pirates attack. Abraham Gray, when handed a cutlass, makes it clear that he is prepared to do his duty and use it. After Redruth's death, [Captain Smollett](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/Treasure-Island/character-analysis/#Captain_Smollett) offers Squire Trelawney words of comfort, assuring him that "a hand that's been shot down in his duty" has nothing to fear after death. Dr. Livesey also pays tribute to Redruth's courage and devotion to duty. Finally, when the captain hoists the flag over the stockade, he keeps it there as a point of honor, even though the mutineers are using it to guide their cannon balls.

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

***Summary Part 1:***

They dash onto the shore and through the trees, in the opposite direction from the pirates. [Dr. Livesey](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/doctor-livesey) hands [Gray](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters) his knife, and Gray hurls it behind him. Soon they reach the stockade, and enclose themselves within it, just as seven of the pirates come into sight. They halt and [Hunter](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters) and [Joyce](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters) shoot, causing one of the pirates to fall—the others flee. They begin to rejoice at the triumph, but suddenly [Redruth](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters) is struck by a bullet and falls to the ground.

***Analysis Part 1:***

The battle between the captain’s men and the pirates continues, but it is hardly as well-planned an assault as either side might have hoped. Even though the captain’s side can claim a small victory, since they’ve caused the pirates to flee, the loss of Redruth makes for a high cost of victory.

***Summary part 2:***

[Dr. Livesey](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/doctor-livesey) says to himself that it’s this loyal, stoic servant, the oldest of the men aboard the ship, who is now to die. The [squire](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/squire-trelawney) asks [Redruth](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters) to forgive him, and he does. He asks for a prayer to be read, and soon after dies. Meanwhile, [Smollett](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/captain-smollett) has been busying himself with setting up the house, but he’s been watching Redruth as well, and when he dies the captain lays a flag over his body in reverence. Still, he tells Dr. Livesey that it’ll be easier to survive longer with one less mouth to feed.

***Analysis Part 2:***

The doctor begins to realize just how much their side will have to sacrifice as a result of the pirates’ mutiny. The captain’s preoccupation with day-to-day tasks might seem cold, even if he does lay the flag over Redruth’s body, but it is also the captain’s good sense and willingness to think ahead that will prove vital to the team in order to survive.

***Summary Part 3:***

They’ve raised the flag of England, which is proving to be a target for the pirates: bullets keep just missing the log-house. But they all decide that it would not be “seamanly” to take the flag down, so it will stay.

***Analysis Part 3:***

Being “seamanly” is what distinguishes these men (in their minds, at least) from the pirates, who might otherwise seem to be pursuing largely similar interests.

***Summary Part 4:***

[Smollett](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/captain-smollett) asks for volunteers to uncover the stores from the jolly-boat: [Gray](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters) and [Hunter](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters) volunteer themselves, but it’s useless—the pirates had already found the boat and taken the provisions. The captain begins to log the day’s events. [Dr. Livesey](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/doctor-livesey) wonders what may have happened to [Jim Hawkins](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/jim-hawkins): suddenly, they hear a cry, and he runs to the door to see Jim Hawkins climbing over the stockade.

***Analysis Part 4:***

As a result of having to flee the small boat, the captain and his men have now doubly lost: they no longer have the provisions, and the pirates can take advantage of them. This is the moment at which Jim had run to the shoreline after meeting Ben Gunn, allowing him to resume the narrative.