***Treasure Island***

***Chapter 28:***

# *In the Enemies’ Camp*

***Brief Summary:***

* Jim is terrified. The pirates have taken the fort and the supplies.
* There are six pirates left alive. Five of them are flushed with drunkenness and one is pale – his head is bandaged, and Jim thinks it's the one who was wounded during that first battle, who ran off into the woods.
* Long John Silver pulls out his pipe, settles in, and asks Jim how the heck he got there.
* Jim doesn't answer. He's trying to look brave, but inside he's sure all is lost.
* Long John Silver says Jim can't go back to his friends; Doctor Livesey and Captain Smollett both think he's undisciplined and ungrateful (and possibly a traitor).
* Jim is relieved to hear that at least his friends are still alive.
* He wants to know what's going on.
* One of the other pirates pipes up that that's what they'd all like to know.
* Long John Silver tells the pirate to shut up.
* Then Long John Silver turns to Jim and addresses him as "Mr. Hawkins" (28.16).
* He explains that Doctor Livesey approached the pirates the day before with a flag of truce.
* Doctor Livesey broke it to the pirates that the ship was gone. Long John Silver admitted that they were all drunk and hadn't even noticed.
* So Doctor Livesey and Long John Silver bargained.
* Doctor Livesey has left the pirates the fort, supplies, and firewood, and gone off with his friends to who knows where – Long John Silver has no idea.
* Jim says whatever, things couldn't get any worse. Since he's already in about as much trouble as he can be, he decides to gloat.
* He tells Long John Silver that it's all thanks to him that Silver's plans have gone wrong. Jim is the one who overheard the pirates' plans and told the Captain and the squire, and he's the one who cut the schooner's lines and set the boat adrift.
* Jim exclaims that he doesn't care if Long John Silver kills him now.
* He does offer that, if the pirates let him go, he'll testify to try to save them from hanging back in England.
* All the pirates look totally dumbstruck.
* Tom Morgan pipes up that it must be true – it's Jim who identified Black Dog back in the pub at Bristol (see Chapter 2).
* And Long John Silver agrees that Jim is the one who took the chart from Billy Bones (Jim's captain at the Admiral Benbow Inn).
* Tom Morgan tries to stab Jim, but Long John Silver holds him back.
* The other pirates agree that Tom Morgan is right.
* Long John Silver wants to know if any of them dare to fight him.
* No one moves.
* Jim suddenly feels some hope.
* The other pirates slowly draw away to the other end of the fort.
* Long John Silver tells them to speak up if they have something to say.
* One of the pirates tells Long John Silver that he may be captain by election, but no one is happy with the way things are going. He demands to talk to Long John Silver outside.
* Eventually all the other pirates join him, waiting for Long John Silver.
* Long John Silver whispers to Jim. He says he knows the game is up. Once he saw the *Hispaniola* gone, he knew there was nothing to be done. So he'll do his best to save Jim's life, but Jim has to promise to do his best to save him from hanging.
* Jim doesn't know how he'll be able to do this when Long John Silver has been the ringleader of the whole mutiny, but he promises to try.
* Long John Silver then asks if Jim can explain why Doctor Livesey has given him the treasure map.
* Jim looks so astonished at this news that Long John Silver realizes Jim has no idea either.

***Synopsis:***

Captured, Jim sees six men, the six pirates who are left, one of whom is extremely injured. Frightened, and seeing none of his friends, the narrator assumes that they must be dead. [Long John Silver](https://www.gradesaver.com/treasure-island/study-guide/character-list#long-john-silver) sits on the wall, with a pipe, and begins to talk to Jim. Surprisingly to Jim, Long John Silver begins to talk to him in a very friendly manner, saying things such as "I've always liked you" and implying that they would have made a great team. Jim learns from the pirate that his companions have turned against the boy. Although this saddens Jim, he is also very relieved to find out that they are not dead. Silver then asks Jim to join the pirates.

In response to Silver, Jim confidently explains that it is he who has been the downfall of the pirates - through the apple barrel, the cutting the schooner loose and killing the men on board, and bringing the ship to a place that the pirates will never find her. Jim concludes with, "I no more fear you than I fear a fly." He tells the pirates that they may choose whether to kill him or to spare his life, but if they let him live, he will try to help keep them from hanging. When Jim finally finishes his diatribe, none of the pirates move. Thinking that he is dead, Jim tells Silver to tell Dr. Livesy that Jim courageously stood up to the pirates and that Jim thought that Silver was the "best man here."

Some of the pirates begin to speak against Jim, and Morgan springs up and draws his knife in an attempt to kill them, but Long John Silver stops the pirates and says the since he was elected Captain he will protect the boy because "I never seen a better boy." In response, the rest of the pirates leave the house and have a council outside. While they are gone, Silver tells Jim that he decided to save the boy only because he was courageous enough to stand up for the boy. Silver vows to Jim that he will save the boy if he will be a witness and save Silver from hanging when they return to civilization. Jim agrees and the shake on the agreement. Silver then explains that he is actually on Trelawney's side and asks the boy why he thinks Trelwaney gave him the treasure map. Obviously shocked about this development, Silver can tell from the look on Jim's face that the boy has no idea.

The most significant aspect about this chapter is the evolution in Jim's character. It is clear that he is very courageous and able to stand up for himself - the speech that he gave to the pirates is not something that he would have been able to deliver before the adventures on the island. In the theme of [Treasure Island](https://www.gradesaver.com/treasure-island) as the story of Jim's growing up, this is a significant point: he is only saved because he is able to stand up for himself and offer the pirates a bargain, a very adult-type attitude and thinking.

Throughout the novel, the narrative has a continual shifting of focus, a blurring of identity, which compels the reader to acknowledge the duality of human nature. The device of changing narrators in the middle of the book is one example of the technique, because it enable the reader to observe the same sequence of events from two different perspectives. In this chapter, too, however, Stevenson uses the same technique where the description of the mutineers' stronghold seen from the inside permits a very different perspective than the any of the previous chapters. Stevenson, by using these techniques, invites the reader to view his characters from a variety of different perspective, thus acknowledging that none of his villains are wholly evil and that behavior, which seems reprehensible from one point of view may be justified when viewed from a fresh perspective.

It is interesting to note how Long John Silver acts when Jim begins his verbal abuse against Long John Silver, especially when he concludes with "I no more fear you than I fear a fly." What self-respecting pirate would seriously endure this sort of talk from a mere child. The answer is that of course, none, but Silver really has no self to respect. There is no basic personality from which he may derive strength when challenged or to which the reader may assign responsibility when silver is doing the threatening. As one critic claimed, Silver is like a weed that flourishes in ideal conditions but shrivels without resistance at the first sign of opposition. The point of the story is in the active conflict, as mentioned previously, and in the rest of the book, the active conflict depends upon Long John Silver changing sides and so change sides he does.

***Summary:***The pirates are in possession of the block-house and Jim is their captive. Counting Silver, there are only six buccaneers left. Silver is still in charge, though to Jim, he looks paler and sterner than before. Silver compliments Jim on being "a lad of spirit," and says the boy has no choice now but to join him and the pirates.

Jim gleans from the conversation that his friends are still alive and only half believes Silver's story about their anger. Silver goes on to tell the boy that he spared the lives of his friends in exchange for the block-house and everything in it.

Jim feels the threat of death hanging over him but tries to keep up a brave front. Brashly he tells Silver that he won't join the pirates, and that he is the one who cost Silver his ship, the treasure, and his men; he is the reason the "whole business has gone to wreck." Furthermore, he recounts his exploits of the previous 24 hours. Then Jim challenges the pirates to kill him or spare him as they please. However, if they spare his life, he promises to save theirs by testifying in their favor if they are tried for piracy.

The pirates are all for killing Jim, but Silver reminds the men that Jim will be more valuable alive than dead.

The men ask permission to confer together outside. As soon as they leave, Silver warns Jim that he is in danger of death and "what's a long sight worse, torture." But the pirate promises to stand by Jim and save his life, if Jim will do the same for him. A bargain is struck.

Now that Jim is in the enemy's camp, his courage is put to a different kind of test. He is at the mercy of the pirates, with no hope of fighting free of them, so physical courage means nothing. It is his moral courage that is tested. With the threat of death hanging over him, it seems the safest, easiest path to follow is to join the mutineers, as Silver suggests. With a fine show of courage, Jim refuses. His main concern is that [Dr. Livesey](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/Treasure-Island/character-analysis/#Dr._Livesey) be informed that he died honorably. This is a praiseworthy indication of Jim's developing maturity. Like the honest sailor Tom, Jim would rather die than behave dishonorably.

As Silver sketches out Jim's precarious position now that he is among the pirates, Jim demonstrates another skill that speaks to his maturity: he listens carefully to Silver in order to discern whether his friends are still alive, while distrusting all that Silver explicitly tells him.

After Jim makes known his role in the wreck of the mutineers' plans, Silver demonstrates both courage and moral ambiguity. With a show of bravado, Jim dares the pirates to kill him. Silver may or may not be impressed, but the intimidating effect of Silver's raw courage and force of will subdues the other men. Yet, Silver is no fool, and he realizes that the honest party, with Jim's help, has destroyed his plan. The ship is gone, and there's something funny about the ease with which Dr. Livesey gave up the map. More importantly, Silver can read the dangerous mood of his men. Without a twinge of regret, he decides to switch sides in order to save his own skin. As his men hold a council with the goal of ousting Silver as their captain, the pirate smoothly begins to set things up. He aligns himself with Jim, in a bargain for their mutual safety.

***Critical Study:***When a torch is brought for light (Chapter 28, "In the Enemy's Camp"), Jim finds himself standing among the six remaining pirates, Silver and five others, one of whom was wounded in the attack. Jim fears that his friends are dead, and is reassured when Silver says they are not — that they bargained with the pirates after both groups found that the ship was no longer in the anchorage. Jim says he has killed Hands and O'Brien and hidden the ship. One of the others, Morgan, wants to kill Jim, but Silver argues against it and challenges the five men to defy him if they dare. They confer, and another man, Merry, claims their right (by rules of piracy) to hold a council. The five go outside, and Silver tells Jim that they intend to overthrow him. The two of them must stand together, he says, or the men will kill Jim unless Silver persuades them not to, and Silver will be hanged unless Jim testifies in his behalf for having saved his life. Jim agrees to this. Silver takes a drink of cognac and then asks Jim why the doctor has given the treasure map to the mutineers; he sees by Jim's expression that Jim has no idea why.

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

***Summary Part 1:***

With the light, [Jim](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/jim-hawkins) can see that the pirates have seized the stockade and all its provisions—he thinks his friends must all be dead. There are only six pirates left here, however: five have sprung up to see Jim, while one looks severely wounded. [Silver](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/long-john-silver) looks paler and sterner than usual, but casually remarks that it’s Jim Hawkins—what a pleasant surprise, he says.

***Analysis Part 1:***

Faced with a new and newly dangerous situation, Jim takes stock of his surroundings, inferring from certain points of evidence that the pirates must be victorious. Silver, in turn, maintains as calm a façade as ever.

***Summary part 2:***

[Jim](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/jim-hawkins) doesn’t respond but only stares [Silver](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/long-john-silver) in the face. He’s always liked Jim, Silver says, as he tells him that the [doctor](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/doctor-livesey) has cursed Jim as a traitor, so he can’t go back to his friends—he’ll have to join the pirates. Jim believes that his friends are angry, but is relieved to know they’re safe. Silver asks Jim what he thinks of the proposal, though he says Jim can take his time: no one will hurry him.

***Analysis Part 2:***

Jim’s former admiration for Silver has turned into defiant loathing. Silver, though, has spent enough time attempting to charm Jim into believing in his goodness that he’s still confident Jim might turn to his side.

***Summary Part 3:***

Emboldened by this, [Jim](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/jim-hawkins) demands to know how they’ve seized the house and where his friends are. [Silver](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/long-john-silver) tells Jim that [Dr. Livesey](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/doctor-livesey) had met him the day before with a flag of truce, pointing out that the ship was gone, and it was time to bargain. This is the result: the pirates have the stores, brandy, log-house, and firewood. He doesn’t know where the other side has gone. But Dr. Livesey hadn’t included Jim in the bargain, Silver says—he no longer cared about him.

***Analysis Part 3:***

Jim is not exactly at an advantage here, but given Silver’s friendly façade, he thinks he can use this act to his own advantage in gaining information about his friends. Silver, in turn, continues trying to convince Jim that the others consider him as a traitor, so there’s no point in returning to them.

***Summary Part 4:***[Jim](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/jim-hawkins) declares that he cares little what might happen to him—he’s seen too many die as a result of [Silver](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/long-john-silver)’s mischief. But he says that Silver is not exactly in a state of victory: he’s lost the ship, treasure, and many of his men. Jim says it was he himself who hid in the apple barrel that night and informed the others of Silver’s treachery; he cut the cable and killed the men aboard the Hispaniola; and he steered the ship into hiding. Now he’s the one who can laugh—he has no more fear of Silver, who can kill him or spare him. He concludes by saying simply that if he’s spared, he’ll try his best to save the pirates in court as a witness.

***Analysis Part 4:***Jim, by now, recognizes Silver’s conniving manipulations for what they are, and refuses to be affected by them. He wants to make it clear that he’s not a naïve child, but rather a key player in the entire fight between the captain’s men and the pirates. Still, his defiant speech ends with a small olive branch: Jim is calculating that this possibility may just be enough to make the pirates consider saving his own life.

***Summary Part 5:***The men are staring at [Jim](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/jim-hawkins) as he asks [Silver](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/long-john-silver) to let the [doctor](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/doctor-livesey) know how he died, should it come to that. Silver agrees in a strange tone. [Morgan](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters), one of the pirates, remembers that it was Jim who recognized [Black Dog](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters), and who found [Billy Bones](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/billy-bones-the-captain)’s [map](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/symbols/the-map-of-treasure): Jim has thwarted them at every turn. Morgan springs up and draws his knife. Silver orders him to stop, forbidding him to take another step, or he’ll kill Morgan himself.

***Analysis Part 5:***Thanks to Jim’s revelations about his own actions, the pirates now realize that, indeed, though just a boy, Jim has been able to manipulate them more than they ever recognized. Silver, too, seems to understand this, even though his reaction is entirely opposed to Morgan’s.

***Summary Part 6:***[Morgan](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters) pauses, but the others murmur restlessly that Morgan is in the right. [Silver](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/long-john-silver) bends forward, threatening them to have it out with Morgan, despite his disabled state. No one moves, so Silver says they must obey. He’s never seen a better boy than [Jim](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/jim-hawkins), he says—Jim is more a man than any of these pirates, and he forbids anyone from hurting him.

***Analysis Part 6:***This is the first moment at which we witness rumblings of discontent among the pirates regarding their new pledged captain. While Silver recognizes that Jim worked against them, he sees his own courage and quick wit in the boy and respects him for it.

***Analysis Part 8:***This is the first moment at which we witness rumblings of discontent among the pirates regarding their new pledged captain. While Silver recognizes that Jim worked against them, he sees his own courage and quick wit in the boy and respects him for it.

***Summary Part 9:***After a long silence, one of the men says that the crew is dissatisfied, upset with such bullying, and he asks for a council outside without [Silver](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/long-john-silver). One by one each man slips out, leaving just Silver and [Jim](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/jim-hawkins). Silver whispers that Jim is close to death, but he’ll stand by him if Jim does agree to witness for him. Jim begins to realize that all is lost—Silver confirms that the “fools and cowards” of the pirates are now mutinying against him. He’s now on the [squire](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/squire-trelawney)’s side, he tells Jim. He imagines that [Hands](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters) and [O’Brien](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters) turned soft—he never much trusted them, and he’s always known when a game is up. Finally, he asks Jim why the [doctor](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/doctor-livesey) gave him (Silver) the [map](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/symbols/the-map-of-treasure). Jim is flabbergasted, but Silver insists that he did.

***Analysis Part 9:***The pirates have followed Silver faithfully (though as part of their betrayal of the captain) until now, when it seems to them that Silver is preferring a boy, and part of the enemy besides, to his own crew. Suddenly and improbably, Jim and Silver find themselves on the same side again, and Jim struggles to understand Silver’s easy betrayal of his crew. Something else the two share is confusion regarding the doctor’s actions: neither understands why he would have given away their one advantage.