***Treasure Island***

***Chapter 34:***

# *And Last*

***Brief Summary:***

* The next morning the group goes back and forth between the cave and the *Hispaniola* carrying their gold to the ship.
* Jim amuses himself by sorting the various coins from the treasure pile.
* They don't see any sign of the three remaining pirates – Tom Morgan, Dick Johnson, and a third unnamed dude.
* On the third night of this, Doctor Livesey and Jim are out walking when they hear some distant singing.
* It's the pirates, either drunk or delirious with fever.
* Doctor Livesey says that if he was sure it was fever and not drunkenness, he would go out and treat them, no matter how dangerous it would be to him personally.
* Long John Silver replies that that would cost him his life – the pirates would never trust Doctor Livesey, even if he meant them no harm.
* They set sail on the *Hispaniola* with the British flag flying.
* As they pass the southern point of the island, they see all three of the pirates kneeling on the ground and begging to be taken aboard the ship.
* They feel full of pity, but they don't want to take the risk of bringing the pirates on board. Plus, why save their lives just to bring them back to England to be hanged?
* Doctor Livesey shouts to the three marooned pirates that they've left supplies and ammunition on the island for them.
* The pirates keep begging to be rescued. As the *Hispaniola* sails out of earshot, one of them takes his gun and shoots right at Long John Silver.
* He misses, but it's close.
* Jim is glad to see Treasure Island disappearing in the distance.
* They set sail for "Spanish America" (probably Central America or the Caribbean) to get a new crew to sail with them back to England.
* Once they arrive at a friendly harbor, Doctor Livesey, Squire Trelawney, and Jim all head out for a night on the town to recover from their long, hard stay on Treasure Island.
* Once they come back to the ship, Ben Gunn informs them that Long John Silver has run off. He admits that he helped Long John Silver into a rowboat to get away because he was afraid that if he stuck around they would never be safe.
* Long John Silver managed to get away with one bag of treasure.
* Everyone is relieved that he's gone.
* They hire some crew members and get safely back to England just as Squire Trelawney's servant, Mr. Blandly, was thinking of sailing after them.
* They all had lots of treasure to share among them, which they used pretty much as you would expect.
* Captain Smollett retires from the sea.
* Abraham Gray saves his money, buys shares in a boat of his own, and starts a family.
* Ben Gunn receives his thousand pounds (in keeping with the deal he struck with Doctor Livesey), but spends it all in about nineteen days. He settles in the country and becomes a big churchgoer.
* They don't hear anything more of Long John Silver, but Jim assumes that he's living his days happily with his wife and parrot.
* There's still treasure on the island – silver and weapons – but Jim decides you couldn't pay him enough to go back.
* Indeed, the worst dreams he has are of the waves on Treasure Island's coasts and the parrot Captain Flint saying, "Pieces of eight! Pieces of eight!" (34.26).

***Synopsis:***

The next morning, the men begin the difficult task of transporting all the gold down to the Hispaniola. Jim is fascinated by the coins—far more by the variety of their designs and nations of origin than by the wealth they represent. On the evening of the third day of loading the ship, the men discover three of the mutineers, who are either drunk or crazy. The men decide to leave the three mutineers marooned on the island with a small amount of provisions.

As Captain Smollett and his men finally make preparations to embark, the three mutineers kneel before them in submission, begging to be taken on board. Understanding that they are being left behind, they fire at the departing ship, but no one is hurt. Smollett sets course for a port in Spanish America before turning home. The Hispaniola eventually returns to Bristol.

Stepping back from his tale, Jim reports that Captain Smollett is retired from the sea life, that Ben has spent his reward and is now a lodge-keeper, and that Silver crept overboard one night during the voyage with a few bags of the treasure, never to be heard from again. Jim wishes Silver well. He notes that the remainder of the treasure still lies buried on the island, but claims that nothing would ever induce him to take part in another treasure hunt. He says that he still has nightmares of Silver’s parrot crying, “Pieces of eight! pieces of eight!”

***Analysis:4 Ch31-34***

Spirituality and the treasure come together in these last chapters, as the searching pirates are guided by a dead man and imagine themselves pursued by spirits. Approaching the treasure means approaching death, spirits, and even the Bible, which one of the pirates reads frantically in an attempt to appease the spirits that he believes are haunting them. Though the spirits are merely a trick devised by Livesey, Stevenson nonetheless wants us to make a serious connection between the treasure hunt and spirituality. Stevenson has a skeleton literally point the way to the treasure, reiterating the spiritual significance of the treasure hunt. Likewise, he questions the value of money that one sacrifices one’s integrity trying to find. Stevenson suggests that a man’s greed can cause him to lose part of his humanity. Just as the skeleton is literally a destroyed human, the greedy pirates are doomed to self-destruction. Ironically, the treasure is not even there anymore; the pirates are pursuing fool’s gold, while the real bounty lies hidden elsewhere, waiting for the good men to uncover it.

Additionally, Stevenson questions the actual value of the treasure. Though the treasure is the very thing that prompts the whole adventure, and which gives the island and the novel their names, Jim hardly mentions it at the end. We assume that Jim wins his hard-earned share of the loot, but we are never absolutely certain, because he does not refer to it at all. Indeed, the treasure itself seems insignificant to Jim. Even when the group first finds it hidden away in Ben’s cave, Jim does not think about the pleasure and leisure it can buy, but rather of the “blood and sorrow” it has cost. The treasure is literally a heavy burden to bear when Jim and the men carry it down to the Hispaniola. Later, though Jim is fascinated by the national origins of the coins and their designs, he is uninterested in their financial power or value. Ironically, then, the final lesson of Treasure Island for Jim may be that treasure is not such a prize after all.

In the final passage of the novel, Stevenson again makes us wonder whom Jim cares about most in this novel. In the concluding paragraphs, Jim mentions only Captain Smollett, Ben Gunn, Abraham Gray, and Long John Silver, men whom he meets after his voyage has started. He does not talk about Dr. Livesey and Squire Trelawney, the men with whom he starts the voyage. Though Livesey and Trelawney represent the heights of science and aristocracy, the fruits of civilization, Jim does not think about either of them at the end of his tale, and we sense that they do not matter to him anymore. Considering the bloodshed Silver has caused, in contrast to the assistance Livesey has provided, it seems disrespectful for Jim to wish the pirate well while ignoring the doctor. Nonetheless, Livesey and Trelawney do not inspire Jim in the way that Silver has. Jim certainly has not been recruited into piracy, but Silver and his pirates have influenced him all the same. We are certain that Jim will not grow up to become like either Livesey or Trelawney; rather, he will be a mix of reason and rationality, spirit and charisma.

***Summary:***For the next several days (Chapter 34, "And Last") all but the wounded Smollett work to transfer the treasure to the ship, posting a sentry to warn them of any attack by the three remaining pirates. Jim is set to the task of sorting and bagging the coins, which he thinks must represent every kind of money in the world. On the third night they hear a sort of singing from far away, which lets them know the mutineers are still alive, although either drunk or taken with fever. Later they hear a gunshot, also far away, and suppose the men are hunting. They decide they must maroon the three men on the island, so they leave powder and shot and a good store of other necessities. They supply the ship with water and salt goat and then lift anchor to leave. On their way through the narrows they see the three men kneeling, begging not to be abandoned, but they go on after telling them where to find the stores they left, and Jim reflects that the men are as well off there as they would be if they were taken back to England to be hanged. As the ship passes, one of the men on shore takes a shot at Silver but misses.

The ship is seriously shorthanded, so they make for the nearest port and cast anchor. Squire Trelawney, Livesey, and Jim go ashore, and when they return at daybreak, Ben Gunn confesses that he has helped Silver to escape. Silver has managed to take a sack of coins, worth about three or four hundred pounds, with him. Everyone is relieved to have seen the last of him.

Returning to Bristol, they share out the treasure. Jim closes his report by telling what happened to three of the five men who — along with himself — returned from the voyage. Captain Smollett retired; Gray pursued his profession of ship's carpenter, went into business, married, and started a family; Ben Gunn went through his thousand pounds in a few weeks and was given a post as lodge keeper in a country district. Jim says that, although other treasure — bar silver and arms — remains on the island, he'll never be part of another voyage to retrieve them, having had all he wants of Treasure Island.

***Analysis Ch28-34:***

The men Jim discovers in the blockhouse number six, and all six (he says) seem to have been awakened from a drunken slumber. Silver is less given to drink and debauchery than the others, and here he seems sober and quick-thinking (as usual) immediately. But he is now worried — "desperate," he says — that he will have lost both the treasure and his life, which supports the notion that he has also been drinking.

Silver has several good reasons for despair. Of the eighteen other potential mutineers that he began with, he is down to five men; one of these is injured, another sick with fever. They have all begun to blame him for the fix they are in, and he knows that they will eventually overcome their fear of him enough to depose him and perhaps kill him. He and they believe — until Jim tells them otherwise — that Hands and O'Brien have taken the ship and left everyone on the island marooned. Finally, Silver cannot understand why Dr. Livesey has agreed to the "treaty" and handed over the stockade, supplies, and treasure map, so he is deeply suspicious.

Note that Livesey believes that George Merry and young Dick have contracted their fever from breathing the foul swamp air ("bad air" being a literal translation of the contraction in Italian for mala aria); it was not until later in the eighteenth century that science began to realize that mosquitoes and not the air itself caused the disease. And, in actuality, there was no effective treatment for either malaria or yellow fever in Livesey's time. Both were sometimes fatal, sometimes not.

Character, too, is further revealed in this last part of the novel. Jim stands up to Silver, taking credit for hiding the ship (and, he says, killing both Hands and O'Brien, although it was Hands who killed O'Brien), but bursts into tears when Livesey reminds him how wrong he was to leave the stockade when Captain Smollett was powerless to stop him. Livesey becomes a bit more human for the reader when he urges Jim to climb over the fence and make a run for it, during their private talk — and also when he warns Silver to look out for trouble when they reach the treasure site and says he'll do the best he can for him, short of perjury, when they arrive back in England. Trelawney shows his essentially honorable nature when he berates Silver but says (because he has given his word to Livesey) that he will not prosecute him, although it seems fairly certain that Smollett, "stiff man" that he is, has not made any such promises.

Silver, of course, proves as he has all along to be the most interesting of the book's characters as the novel ends, and while his further development does not surprise readers, it is a strong and fitting finish for this great adventure story. In this final part, Silver shows all of his various sides: He is protective of Jim and he is powerful in countering the attempt to depose him — so powerful that the men re-elect him captain. He is proud, witty, sarcastic, and courageous in facing what promises to be his last fight, against the five pirates. He is despairing of his life — honestly so, the reader feels — when he speaks to Livesey and Jim; a few minutes later, he is eating with gusto and throwing the leftovers in the fire, as little concerned about the future as his thoughtless companions. He pales with superstitious terror to hear the "ghostly voice," but then recovers himself enough to reflect that he wasn't afraid of the living Flint, so why fear Flint's disembodied spirit? He shows every sign, as Jim knows, of being ready to cut the boy's throat along with those of all his friends when the treasure is found, but only a moment later he tosses Jim a pistol and prepares to fight it out with his own erstwhile shipmates, back to back with a youngster a quarter of his age. And he is unfailingly polite and cheerful, having lost his chance at the treasure and his own freedom after the three remaining mutineers have been chased off and marooned. Which is the real Silver? One guesses that they all are. He has said to Jim: "Ah, you that's young — you and me might have done a power of good together!" He means "good" in a different way from what Dr. Livesey might mean it, of course — but does he? There is a note of real regret in this remark, and some ambiguity, too. Silver long before cast his lot with outlaws, but it is hard not to believe that, had his circumstances been other than they were, he might have been as good a man on the right side of the law as either Smollett or Trelawney — perhaps even a better one.

It was usual for a boys' adventure book, in the 1880s, to draw a firm moral at the end, but Stevenson has resisted that impulse here. Yes, the good are rewarded at last and the bad punished, but neither the rewards nor the punishments are quite what they may have been in a more conventional tale. No one is executed and Ben Gunn, as much a pirate as any of the others, gets a chance at wealth, squanders it, and is then helped to a more or less comfortable life. Jim Hawkins, having had all the adventure he wants, declines to tell readers the details of his own rewards and/or punishments. And Silver, with a modest portion of the huge treasure (probably all he can carry — a lifetime's wages, as you may recall, for an ordinary merchant sailor) and with the help of Ben Gunn, who fears him greatly, manages to slip out of all the moral knots in which he is bound. The reader hopes, with Jim, that he will end his life in comfort somewhere in the company of his wife and parrot.

***Critical Study:***The next day the men transport the treasure to the Hispaniola, although moving the entire amount of gold takes several days. Silver is allowed liberty and tries to ingratiate himself with the men, but with the exception of Gunn and Hawkins, they treat the former mutineer like a dog. The doctor and his party do not know any thing of the three pirate survivors until Hawkins and Livesy hear a snatch of shrieking or singing. Silver says the men are drinking, but Livesy thinks one or more may be ill. While he want to go and help them, Long John Silver forbids him, claiming that the men will kill him. The doctor's party decides to abandon them on the island, but to leave supplies.

Finally, the ship sails away and the people on board see the three pirates kneeling on the shore, begging for mercy. The doctor and his companions have decided that they cannot risk another mutiny, and so they leave them on the island. The captain lies on a mattress, giving orders, while everyone else works hard. They head for the nearest port, in South America, so that they can hire more hands for the voyage home. When they land, they are given a warm greeting and the doctor, squire and Jim spend all night on land. When they return to the ship, Ben Gunn informs them that Silver has escaped, taking with him three or four hundred guineas of the treasure. Believing that Silver might have killed him, Gunn did not hamper his escape. The other are relieved that he is gone.

After adding a few soldiers to the crew, Jim and his friends finish the journey and land at Bristol, sharing the treasure. Smollett retires. Gray, marries and becomes part owner of a ship. Gunn spend his part of the treasure in three week and again becomes a beggar - finally he becomes a lodge keeper. Jim Hawkins never hears of Long John Silver again, but Jim still has nightmares of he "accursed island," and the voice of Silver's parrot still rings in his dreams: "Pieces of eight! Pieces of eight!"

Again, the theme of morally wrong but tactically right is raised in this chapter, a further example of this theme is the decision to leave behind on the island three of the pirates. This seems to Jim Hawkins to be a painful but unavoidable decision: "It went to all our hearts, I think, to leave them in that wretched state; but we could not risk another mutiny; and to take them home for the gibbet would have been a cruel sort of kindness." In each of the instances in the book such as this, where decisions are morally wrong but tactically right, there is a careful balancing of competing considerations but the reader is aware that inherent in each set of circumstances is the impossibility of arriving at a wholly judicious course of action.

The book ends, as it begins, with a deliberate pushing of the whole story into the past; it is a retrospect, a thing finished and done with, something to be talked over by the fire on a winter's night. The story begins and ends as a recollection, from the comfort of the present, of the adventures and discomforts of the past. The pattern is, in a large sense, the same as Arabian Nights, where cigar smoking bachelors narrate their adventures in the comfort of someone else's house.

In this concluding chapter, the all important symbol is, of course, money. From the beginning of the book, this has been a reoccurring symbol and metaphor, but as Jim looks at the gold currency as he packs it into bags to be transported, he reflects not only upon the wealth that is at his fingertips, but also upon the cost that this money has had: seventeen men have died for this wealth. Money, therefore, in Treasure Island is a symbol of corruption - even the straight-laced and proper Dr. Livesey has not been unaffected by the influence of money.

Finally, some critics have questioned the moral lesson of letting Long John Silver get away with the money, but in some way this adds to the moral ambiguity that is present throughout this work. Having Robert Louis Stevenson let the arguable hero get away serves as a motivation for the book, for remember in both the conclusion and the introduction you remember that although Jim Hawkins has never seen or heard from Long John Silver again, he haunts his dreams until he is an adult. Thus, this also has implications on the father figure - although Jim was able to transcend the rest of the parental figures in the book, even becoming "Captain Jim," if only to Israel Hands, he is never able to transcend the mysterious, yet influential and helpful, Long John Silver.

***Critical Analysis:***The next morning work begins on transferring the gold to the *Hispaniola*. It continues for three days, unmolested by the three remaining mutineers.

Before leaving the island for good, a council is held and the decision made to leave the three mutineers marooned on the island. However, the maroons will be left with provisions and supplies.

During a stop at the nearest island port to hire more ship hands, Silver disappears, taking only a bag of coins. No one is disappointed. The rest of the cruise goes smoothly, and the ship arrives safely in Bristol, though only five of the original passengers and crew are returning.

To the end, [Dr. Livesey](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/Treasure-Island/character-analysis/#Dr._Livesey) is guided by duty. Silver dissuades him, demonstrating again his understanding of the nature of evil: that innocence has trouble recognizing evil, and evil may recognize innocence, but does not actually believe in it. This awareness allows Silver to slip convincingly from one self-serving position to another and to seem believable in whatever role he assumes.

There is moral ambiguity in the decision to leave the three mutineers behind on the island, yet the others cannot risk bringing the men along on the voyage home. They are unpredictable, at best, and if tempted by the gold aboard, they could turn mutinous once more. Moreover, they may survive life on the island, but will hang for certain for their crimes if they return to England. Even so, they are men, capable of fear and suffering. It's a moral dilemma with no painless solution.

Finally, Jim notes that everyone uses their newfound wealth "wisely or foolishly, according to our natures." With the exception of Ben Gunn, the men seem to have put it to good use. This suggests that money, separate from corrupting influences of greed, can have positive attributes. He imagines that Silver has used his small theft wisely.

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

***Summary Part 1:***

The next day they get to work to load the Hispaniola with treasure. [Jim](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/jim-hawkins) is amazed by all the different kinds of coins, from different countries and in different sizes. On the third night, the [doctor](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/doctor-livesey) and Jim are walking along the hill, when they hear shrieking and singing: the doctor cries that it’s the mutineers. [Silver](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/long-john-silver) says that they’re all drunk. Jim had noticed how everyone has been treating Silver no better than a dog, except for [Gunn](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/ben-gunn), who’s still afraid of him, and Jim, who’s still grateful to him (even though he hasn’t forgotten the moment of final planned treachery on the plateau).

***Analysis Part 1:***

Once again Jim witnesses first-hand the drunken revelry of the pirates, and now he has proof that such revelry has only served them ill, while the more rational, strategic members of the captain’s crew are now piling treasure into the ship. Jim continues to be of two minds about Silver, both admiring him and regarding him with suspicion, and aware that he’ll never really be able to predict Silver’s next move.

***Summary part 2:***

The [doctor](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/doctor-livesey) wonders if the mutineers are insane, rather than drunk, in which case he should go assist them. [Silver](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/long-john-silver) tells him that there’s no way the doctor could do so and hope to live. So they leave the last three pirates, deciding to abandon them on the island. Finally, they pull up their anchor and sail out of the North Inlet. As they sail away, they see the three pirates kneeling in supplication: they all feel a burst of pity, but in the interest of preventing another mutiny (not to mention the gallows that will surely await them) they leave the men behind. Seeing that they are leaving, one of the pirates shoots a bullet through the main sail, so the party ducks low on deck until at a safe distance.

***Analysis Part 2:***

At first, the doctor’s professional role triggers his sense of responsibility, but Silver has no similar sentiment, and once again is able to convince the doctor to act in the way he thinks best. Still, as the crew sails away, the pirates seem more pitiful than threatening, especially when weakened by drink. Throughout the book, indeed, they have shifted wildly between being terrifying and pathetic, and now the latter seems to win out.

***Summary Part 3:***

At sundown, they anchor at a port where Mexican Indians and black people are selling sweet-smelling fruits and vegetables. The [doctor](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/doctor-livesey), [squire](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/squire-trelawney), and [Jim](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/jim-hawkins) meet an English man-of-war and spend some time aboard his ship. When they return to the Hispaniola, [Ben Gunn](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/ben-gunn) says that [Silver](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/long-john-silver) has escaped, with one of the coin sacks worth three or four hundred guineas. They all think it a cheap price to be rid of him.

***Analysis Part 3:***

The adventure at this port is much more low-key than on Treasure Island. While no one precisely expected Silver to run away, neither are they exactly surprised, and it certainly prevents them having to spend the sea voyage back studying him for any sign of a new plot against them.

***Summary Part 4:***The Hispaniola has an uneventful voyage home, though it arrives with only five of the men who had left. [Jim](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/jim-hawkins) ends by relating how each man spent his fortune: [Captain Smollett](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/captain-smollett) retired from the sea; [Gray](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters) saved his money and became an owner of a ship himself, as well as married with children; [Ben Gunn](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/ben-gunn) lost or spent his money in three weeks and returned to begging. They’ve never since heard of [Long John Silver](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/long-john-silver), though Jim imagines he met his wife and perhaps lives comfortably with her and the [parrot](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/captain-flint-parrot).

***Analysis Part 4:***Jim recognizes that it’s difficult for characters to change substantially: fortunes of wealth tend to align with fortunes in the other sense of luck, as well as with the character traits that were present in each figure from the start. With time and the benefit of hindsight, Jim’s view of Long John Silver becomes more benign than suspicious.

***Summary Part 5:***

[Jim](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/jim-hawkins) claims that he’ll never again return to that island. His worst dreams include the loud waves on an island, and the sound of the [parrot](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/treasure-island/characters/captain-flint-parrot) squawking “Pieces of eight!”

***Analysis Part 5:***

While Jim has clearly relished sharing his adventure with readers, he seems confident that he’s learned all that he needs to through such events.