

Jim froze with terror, but then somebody shouted, "Land ahead!" Silver, Hands, and Merry got up and ran to get a look at the island. As soon as he was sure they were all gone, Jim climbed out of the barrel, his heart beating fast. He had liked Silver; he had thought he was his friend! But now he knew who Silver really was. Jim went to the front of the ship, where he found Captain Smollett, Dr Livesey, and Squire Trelawney, discussing where to anchor the Hispaniola. Silver was there too, offering his advice. He said hello to Jim and gave him a friendly smile. How could he be the same cruel pirate who was going to take the treasure and cut their throats?

Jim walked quietly up to Livesey. "Doctor," he said quickly, "you and Squire Trelawney and Captain Smollett must go immediately to your cabin, and then send for me. I have terrible news!"

A few minutes later, Jim joined the captain, the squire and the doctor in the privacy of the cabin. Above them, there was noise and excited talk as the crew prepared to anchor. While Jim told his story as quickly as he could, none of the three men in the cabin showed any fear, but listened carefully. When he was done they thanked him.

The squire turned to Captain Smollett. "You were right, and I was wrong," he said. "I admit I was a fool, and I wait for your orders."

"I was foolish, too," Captain Smollett replied. "I had no idea that the crew was planning this. That Silver must be a remarkable leader. Anyway, here's the situation as I see it: we can't turn back, because they will attack us immediately. We have the map, and they don't, so we have time until the treasure is found. Finally, there are still honest men aboard, whom we can trust."

"Yes," said the Squire, "I trust Joyce and Redruth with my life, and Abraham Gray, who I hired before meeting Silver."

Quickly the men formed a plan. Then they returned to the deck and acted as if nothing had happened. The Hispaniola's anchor dropped into the water, and the crew cheered. Jim looked towards Treasure Island. It was covered in dark woods and waves crashed onto the shore. He had wanted for so long to arrive here, but as he looked at the island he found himself hating the place.

