

CHAPTER 2

JIM AND HIS MOTHER SOON WISHED THAT THE CAPTAIN WOULD leave the inn, because he never paid his rent. Whenever Jim's mother asked for money, he looked very angry and she was too frightened to say anything to him. The Captain continued to give Jim a silver coin every month, however, to watch out for the one-legged man. But the winter months went by, cold and rainy, and few people came to the inn.

Then early one January morning a stranger walked in the door. Two fingers were missing on his left hand, and he carried a sword. But he looked nervous rather than fierce. Jim asked the man if he wanted anything.

"Is my mate Bill staying here?" he asked.

"I don't know your mate Bill," Jim replied. "Our only guest is someone we call the Captain, and he is out walking."

"Well, my mate Bill was a captain once," said the man with a short laugh. He took Jim tightly by the arm. "Come hide behind the door with me and we'll give him a surprise!" Jim did not think the Captain would be happy to see this man at all.

Suddenly the Captain walked through the door, slamming it. "Bill," the stranger called out nervously, and the Captain turned and stared.

"Black Dog!" he said, very pale as he sat down on a chair. "What do you want?" Black Dog let go of Jim and walked towards the Captain.

"I'm here for the rest of the crew," Black Dog replied. "We know you have Flint's map, and now we've found you. We want our fair share."

The Captain stared at him, and then at Jim. "Get out of here!" he shouted. "And don't listen in on us!" Jim didn't need to be told twice. He ran to the kitchen, wondering what the men were talking about and what would happen next. Suddenly he heard the sound of fighting. Jim went to look, and saw Black Dog running out the door. He thought the Captain would chase him, but instead he sat

