

CHAPTER 3

FROM HIS HIDING PLACE, JIM HEARD THE PIRATES BREAKING down the door of the 'Admiral Benbow.' A moment later, a voice shouted: "Bill's dead!"

Black Dog's voice shouted back: "Never mind him! Search for the chest upstairs!" There were sounds of footsteps, and various things breaking. Then Jim heard: "Someone's already looked through the chest, and they've taken the map!"

"That boy must have it!" cried Black Dog. "He can't be far away. Go and find him!" Now Jim was in trouble, because he couldn't leave his mother, and the pirates would surely find them soon. While he was trying to think of what he could do, he heard the sound of horses coming. The pirates heard them too. Frightened, they ran out of the Benbow and disappeared.

Jim came out of his hiding place and greeted Dr Livesey and his friend Squire Trelawney, along with Trelawney's servants, Joyce and Redruth. Together they went back to the Benbow. The pirates had made a mess. Furniture was turned over and many things were broken.

"This is terrible," said the squire. He was a local landowner, plump and cheerful. Everybody liked him. "What on earth were they looking for?"

"I believe I know, sir," said Jim, and he gave Dr Livesey the packet he had taken from the Captain's chest. Quickly he told them the Captain's story. Dr Livesey showed the packet to the squire.

"Suppose - just suppose - this is a clue to where Flint buried his treasure," the doctor said. "How much do you think he hid there?"

"How much?" exclaimed the squire. "If you found Flint's treasure, you'd be the richest man in England."

Very carefully, the doctor opened the packet, and a map of an island fell out. It showed where to find the island, and safe places to anchor a ship. But the two men and Jim looked mostly at a red

