

"Flag of truce!" yelled a man.

The voice woke Jim out of a deep sleep. He saw that the other men were already awake. Then the squire said: "It's Silver himself!" Jim immediately jumped up and ran to see what was happening. Captain Smollett went to the door of the fort. "What do you want with your flag of truce?" he called out.

"It's Captain Silver, sir, come to make a deal," he said, holding a white flag and walking slowly towards the fort on his one leg.

"Captain Silver! Never heard of him," said Smollett. "I had a cook called Silver once."

Silver laughed. "Well, the lads elected me Captain, after you ran away from the ship. I'm here to speak for them. We want the treasure, and we'll have it, one way or another. And I assume that you want to get off this island alive. You have the map, don't you?"

"Maybe we do, maybe we don't," the captain replied.

"Oh, we know you have it," said Silver. "We want that map. Here's the deal; give it to us, and I'll give you two choices: you can sail with us, and we'll leave you somewhere safe ashore, or you can stay here, and we'll tell the next ship we see to come and pick you up. That's it. Agree to our offer, and you live. Refuse and you'll get nothing more from me but bullets."

"Now listen to my offer," Captain Smollett replied. "If you come to me one by one, unarmed, I will take you prisoner and sail for England. There, I promise you will all get a fair trial. If you don't accept that, you can all go hang. You can't find the treasure without the map. You can't sail the ship - you will get lost on the ocean. Besides that, there's no wind. That's all I have to say. Now get out of here."

Silver's eyes burned with anger. He spat on the ground. "That's what I think of you!" he shouted. "Before an hour goes by, I'll knock your old fort to the ground! Those that die will be the lucky ones." Then he limped away and vanished into the forest.

Captain Smollett turned around and saw all the men in the fort watching. "Go back to your posts!" he shouted. "What if the pirates attacked us from the back while you were watching Silver?"

