

CHAPTER 1

THE ADVENTURE OF TREASURE ISLAND STARTED WITH A mysterious guest called the Captain. Jim Hawkins remembers the day the man arrived as if it was yesterday. It was the year 17-, and Jim was working at the 'Admiral Benbow' inn. The 'Admiral Benbow' was on the coast of England, in a lonely spot. The customers were usually local people, but this stranger was obviously not from any nearby town. He was tall, strong, and heavy, with dark brown skin. His long hair hung over the back of his dirty blue coat in a pigtail and there was an ugly white scar on his face. Behind him, he dragged an old chest. Jim supposed he had been a sailor once, and watched him curiously.

"Much business here, madam?" he asked Jim's mother, looking along the shore.

"No, I'm afraid not!" Mrs Hawkins answered, sadly. The inn barely made enough money to support Jim and his mother, a widow.

The sailor looked pleased. "I'll stay here," he said. "I'd like breakfast every morning, and a room from where I can watch the sea. You can call me the Captain," he added. This was the only name for him they ever learned. The Captain rarely talked to them. He passed the time walking along the shore, or in his upstairs room, watching the sea. Once he gave Jim a silver coin, and told him to "watch out for a sailor with only one leg." At first Jim thought that the Captain was lonely and was hoping for some other sailors to visit, but soon he realised that the Captain was afraid of this one-legged man. In fact, he avoided any sailor who came to the 'Admiral Benbow'.

In the evenings, however, the Captain often joined the locals downstairs in the inn, and told stories of his days at sea – stories of robbing and sinking ships, of bloody murders, and the horrible punishments that pirates used, such as making people walk the plank. His most frightening stories were about Captain Flint, a pirate famous in England and all over the world. Flint was dead

