

The Mutiny of Captain Lachlan Grant
By Lukas Berry

Cast of Characters

TIME: Late evening; late morning

PLACE: Port city tavern; ship deck

SETTING: The port city tavern is quite rustic, its entire structure made out of simple wood planks and sporting only pewter tankards and wooden chairs and tables. The tavern has two stories and has a single set of double doors in the center of the main room, looking similar in structure to the aftcastle and deck of a ship. The tables are on opposite sides of the door and one is on the second floor while one remains on the first. Path to bar is closest to the first floor table. The ship deck retains this orientation, though the tables are absent and a wheel is present.

SCENE ONE

(Port city tavern, evening. Two tables, one on the second floor and one on the first, are present and with two tankards on them, though the second story table has a ship model on it. Clamor of evening crowd can be heard alongside music. LACHLAN and EDWARD enter through doors, lights on them.)

LACHLAN

Ah, it's good to finally stretch out my legs on good old dry land for once. How I've missed thee, Ornaise.

EDWARD

Despite your love for the sea, Cap'n?

LACHLAN

Ah, yes, but every one of us has to have some time away from his mistress, aye?

EDWARD

Aye, Cap'n. No truer words have ever been said.

LACHLAN

Of course, Edward. Now, let's find us a table. Ah, there's one open a floor up.

EDWARD

(points to first floor table)

Not this one, Cap'n?

LACHLAN

I prefer higher perches, Edward. Oh, and get a bottle of rum now, will you?

EDWARD

Aye, of course, Cap'n

(LACHLAN sits down at table as EDWARD exits; LACHLAN notices ship model in the center of the table and picks it up, inspecting it)

LACHLAN

Hmm, two masts, nearly thirty guns, small aftcastle... yes, this is definitely a brigantine. Same as mine.

(LACHLAN takes out two bags of coins and puts them on the table. He opens one, takes out two gold coins and puts them in another which he then puts away. EDWARD enters and sits down with rum bottle)

EDWARD

I went and took the liberty of buying some special spiced rum, Cap'n.

LACHLAN

Aye, good choice, Edward. We've earned ourselves a little treat, haven't we? Oh, and your share of our payment is on the table there.

EDWARD

(Looks in bag)

That's not much, Cap'n.

LACHLAN

Aye, our generous Ornaisean employers decided to give us less this time. Some flotsam about "cutting costs" in their war against the Soreillean Empire.

EDWARD

But... but the frigate we captured! Shouldn't that've given us some more pay?

LACHLAN

Apparently not. However, we should make some coin off of the cargo, so long as we sell it by morning. Coffee and cocoa beans and obsidian pay pretty nicely around here.

EDWARD

Why's that? The sellin' part, I mean?

LACHLAN

Ornaiseans will confiscate it when they take the merchants on the ship we took prisoner and sell it off themselves.

EDWARD

What? They'd do that? The bastards...

LACHLAN

Remember, Edward, the Ornaiseans are trying their damndest to surpass the Soreilleans in imperial power over in these here Western Archipelagoes. And money is a large part of that power. In their pursuit of said power, our generous benefactors would shell out a little more for our prize. I doubt they'd pay more if we brought them the Soreilleans emperor's own flagship, with him still on board!

EDWARD

Aye, true, true, Cap'n. They'll do anythin' to beat the Soreilleans, even if it means cheatin' us.

LACHLAN

But pay is pay, dear Edward, and sometimes it's worth taking less if it means living a day longer.

EDWARD

Aye, that is true, Cap'n. Again, no truer words have been spoken, Cap'n. (raises tankard) To our continued fortune and plunder, and death to the Soreilleans!

LACHLAN

(raises tankard)

Death to the Soreilleans!

(LACHLAN and EDWARD clink tankards together, take a swig of rum, and laugh. MARY and CHARLES enter through doors; MARY points offstage and CHARLES exits; MARY sits at the bottom table. EDWARD notices.)

EDWARD

Cap'n, you might want to be seein' this.

LACHLAN

What is it, quartermaster?

EDWARD

Look over there. That's our boatswain, aye?

LACHLAN

(short pause)

Aye, that it is. Decided to join in the festivities for once, eh...? Say, what was her name again, Edward?

EDWARD

I... I don't remember, Cap'n. Started with an "M" I think... Miranda... Meryl... May... no, it sounded... sounded like... maybe Maribelle?

LACHLAN

Oh, of course! Maribelle! That's it!

EDWARD

Really? It is? I didn't think it was actually that.

LACHLAN

No, Edward, it is Maribelle. I remember clear as day now.

EDWARD

Well, regardless, why is she here? She never leaves the ship, aye?

LACHLAN

Aye, that is true... odd, but true.

EDWARD

How so, Cap'n?

LACHLAN

Well, I can't say it's never a bad time to become more acquainted with the crew. Better in the long run, it is.

EDWARD

I s'pose yer right, Cap'n. Oh, she had a crewmember enter with her, though he went off somewhere over there. Looked like she told him to do somethin'.

LACHLAN

Did she now? When exactly did our boatswain start giving out orders to my crew? She's not the captain, if I recall.

EDWARD

Aye, Cap'n, you are still the cap'n.

(CHARLES enters and sits with MARY)

LACHLAN

You know, I'm now curious about what our little boatswain's up to. How about you go get her for me, aye?

EDWARD

Don't worry, cap'n. I'm on it.

(EDWARD gets up and walks towards MARY and CHARLES; lights brighten on the two)

MARY

Well, it makes sense, doesn't it?

CHARLES

Aye, it does, but they do have a point. How do we know those prisoner's're tellin' the truth?

MARY

Being friendly has its benefits. Besides, what do you think, Charles?

CHARLES

(short pause)

Aye, I agree. I believe they're tellin' the truth.

MARY

And anyone worth their salt will listen to ole Rigger Charles over me.

CHARLES

Ha! Don't make me blush.

MARY

But it's true! So long as you say what I do, they'll no doubt sign up with us.

CHARLES

But then they'll want me as cap'n, not you.

MARY

You believe in me, yes?

CHARLES

Aye, but the others...

MARY

You trust me, and they trust you. Therefore, they should trust me, yes?

CHARLES

(short pause)

Aye, that might work. I'm goin' to talk around again, see if your little idea is good.

(CHARLES gets up to leave, but is stopped by EDWARD)

EDWARD

Ahoy there, mates! A pleasure to be seein' both of you sharin' a drink tonight after a long voyage! (to CHARLES) You farin' well, mate? And what about you, Mar... Mari... Boatswain?

MARY

(short pause)

I... I am... well, thank you.

CHARLES

Do you need somethin' with Mary and me, quartermaster?

EDWARD

That's a little rude, isn't it, mate? I asked how yer farin', and you-

CHARLES

(sighs)

Farin' well, mate. Now answer my question.

EDWARD

There ye go. Now, that wasn't so hard now, aye?

MARY

Do you need something, Edward, or did you come over here to embarrass yourself as usual?

EDWARD

Oh, that's right! Aye, I did need something. You. (points at MARY)

MARY

For what?

EDWARD

The Cap'n is interested in what you're doin' here and why you're orderin'... my mate here around.

MARY

You can tell him I'm busy right now. I've more important matters to-

CHARLES

One moment, quartermaster.

(CHARLES grabs MARY and walks her away from EDWARD)

EDWARD

What're you doin'...? Mate? Boatswain... err, Mary?

MARY

(to EDWARD)

One moment, Edward! (to CHARLES) What's wrong, Charles?

CHARLES

It's best not to let Lachlan suspect anythin'. Go see what he

(CONTINUED)

CHARLES (CONTINUED)

wants, but don't let him on too much. Meanwhile, I'll go and convince the others to let you be captain over me. Does that sound good?

MARY

(short pause)

Very well. (to EDWARD) Edward! I'll see the captain.

EDWARD

Good, let's go.

(EDWARD heads back to his table, MARY follows and CHARLES exits opposite; lights brighten on LACHLAN; he quickly puts another coin from EDWARD's coin bag into his pocket)

LACHLAN

Damn it. What's taking Edward so long? He needs to get me more rum...

EDWARD

Cap'n! I got the boatswain, as you requested.

LACHLAN

Ah, good, good! Excellent! Please, take a seat!

(LACHLAN gestures to opposite chair, EDWARD already sitting in it. Short pause as EDWARD realizes LACHLAN's words, then jolts up)

EDWARD

Oh, sorry, Cap'n! If I'd known you were goin' to let her sit here I'd've-

LACHLAN

Oh, yes, how silly of me, I was so enthralled by Maribelle's entrance that-

EDWARD

(whispering to LACHLAN)

Her name's Mary, Cap'n.

LACHLAN

What? Mary? ...Are you sure?

EDWARD

Aye, Cap'n. I heard the person she was with say it.

LACHLAN

Huh... Like I was saying, I was captivated by Miss Mary here that I forgot to tell you...

(LACHLAN picks up and shakes empty rum bottle, EDWARD stares blankly)

LACHLAN (Cont'd)
(annoyed)

Go get me more rum.

EDWARD

Oh! Aye, of course, Cap'n! Right away!

(EDWARD exits)

LACHLAN

Now then, Mary, please take a seat.

MARY

So, you wanted to speak to me, Captain? Something about me giving orders to Charles?

LACHLAN

Ah, that bastard of a quartermaster is finally taking his own initiative to be useful, eh? About time. Anyway, please, explain.

MARY

Right, that. There was just something on my mind that I wanted to discuss with the crew. I had Charles go and talk to some others about it. Nothing major.

LACHLAN

(short pause)

Really? That's it?

MARY

It may seem quite brash of me to say this, Captain, but it's only for the crew to hear, not you.

LACHLAN

Oh, so it's a secret, eh? Well, I'll have you know I don't appreciate secrets on my ship without me knowing them. Don't want to think anyone's starting a mutiny now, would we?

MARY

...Yes, a mutiny would be bad... but my previous statement still stands.

LACHLAN

Ah, I see... and what-

(EDWARD enters)

EDWARD

I got the rum you wanted, Cap'n!

LACHLAN

God damn it, Edward! There's no need for that!

EDWARD

Oh, apologies, Cap'n. I just thought you'd like to know, is all.

LACHLAN

I have eyes, Edward... Ah, but what about Edward? He's part of the crew, aye?

MARY

Yes, but-

LACHLAN

Then tell him. Go on, tell him right now.

EDWARD

Aye, I'm the crew... er, not all of it, but part of it... why does it matter I'm the crew, Cap'n?

LACHLAN

Mary will explain. (short pause) Well? He said he's part of the crew, so why don't-

MARY

I'd be happy to if you left, Captain.

EDWARD

(whispering to LACHLAN)

I think she figured us out, Cap'n.

LACHLAN

And what helped you figure THAT out? (To MARY) Very well, Mary, I see that you've forced my hand, so allow me to propose this.

(CONTINUED)

LACHLAN (CONTINUED)

(pulls out pistol and points at MARY) I'm the god-damned captain of this crew; my word is law, so you're going to tell me what it is you're keeping from me or I introduce you to my little lead friend here.

MARY

Fine, fine, I'll tell. After all, dying isn't part of my plan.

LACHLAN

(lowers pistol) Good, now... Plan? (raises pistol again) What plan?

EDWARD

The Cap'n wasn't right about the mutiny, was he?

LACHLAN

No, no, it can't be a mutiny, now that I think about it. Who in the name of hell would follow Mary as a captain? She's not captain material.

EDWARD

Right! Women can't be captains!

LACHLAN

(puts pistol on table)

And the crew shares the same views; they won't be captained by a woman.

MARY

Do you want me to tell you or no? Right then, Charles and I are here because we are getting a... vote from the crew.

EDWARD

A vote to mutiny the Cap'n?

LACHLAN

Edward!

MARY

This vote is quite simple: considering our fruitless voyages of late and dwindling pay from the Ornaisceans, the crew will decide whether we stay with Ornaise or instead work for Soreille-

LACHLAN

What? Work for Soreille? No, no, no, absolutely not!
Out of the question!

MARY

Captain, listen, I knew you wouldn't agree to this at first because of our work with Ornaise, but please listen. It'll help us in the long run; trust me. Firstly, the Soreillean merchants in the brig said-

LACHLAN

The prisoners? Really? You really believe the prisoners were telling the truth?

MARY

I know they were telling the truth.

LACHLAN

Mary, they're prisoners. They'll do or say anything to worm their way out of their cells.

EDWARD

Aye, anythin'! They'll even pull down yer trousers and give you a little-

LACHLAN

Edward!

MARY

As I was saying, the merchants told me that the Soreillean navy would give us decent coin for protecting their treasure fleets from... well, from Ornaisean privateers like us and other rival nations or pirates.

LACHLAN

How do you know they'll pay more?

MARY

We all know Soreille's wealthier than Ornaise. Just look at the merchant ship. I'm sure they'd be more than willing to give us a little more for our services.

LACHLAN

And why would they be so generous as to give us some more pay, Mary?

MARY

Well, I've heard talk about the Ornaisean emperor giving not only money, but food and clothing to the empire's poor. Turns out they have a surplus of... well, everything, save for privateers. Why wouldn't they give a little more to us?

LACHLAN

Soreillean propaganda. Besides, we're enemies of the empire. I will not take any chances with those bastards. We'll make port in the morning and by nightfall we'll be swinging from the gallows.

MARY

Ah, yes! I should've mentioned this first, but the merchants said that the Soreillean emperor is giving royal pardons to enemies of Soreille.

LACHLAN

Again, Soreillean propaganda. Our pardon will only come in the form of a noose.

EDWARD

Um, Cap'n, if I may? It's true the prisoners could be lyin', but a lot of what Mary said I've overheard from Ornaisseans in the colonies we made port in.

LACHLAN

Edward, whose side are you on?

EDWARD

Yours, Cap'n.

(LACHLAN stares at EDWARD for several seconds)

EDWARD (Cont'd)

Uh... yes, your side, Cap'n. Aye, it's all Soreillean propa... propa... lies.

LACHLAN

See, Mary? A liar and a scoundrel like us.

MARY

That's the first time I'm hearing that.

LACHLAN

All right, look. We can go at it like this till morning, but I don't want to waste my time arguing over something as ridiculous as this, so I want you to go back to the crew you had Charles talk to over there and-

(LACHLAN points to crew offstage, notices they are gone)

LACHLAN (Cont'd)

Where the hell are they?

MARY

Charles told them to speak with the merchants if they didn't believe him.

LACHLAN

What?! I told everyone the prisoners are off limits!

EDWARD

What if they believe the prisoners, Cap'n?

LACHLAN

They won't. My crew's smarter than that. (Looks at MARY) Well, most of it is. However, I will not sit by and let those scoundrels try and turn my men against me! Come on, Edward! Let's teach those prisoners a lesson.

EDWARD

Aye, Cap'n! We'll make 'em regret talkin' to our boys!

(LACHLAN grabs the new rum bottle before both men exit through doors. MARY, after looking at the ship model on the table, exits side stage)

END SCENE ONE

SCENE TWO

(MARY and CHARLES are sitting at their table, rum bottle and tankards gone, replaced with MARY's cutlass and two bags of coins; MARY is cleaning pistol, stops and places pistol on table when she hears a gunshot)

MARY

The hell was that?

CHARLES

Sounded like it came from the ship, Mary.

MARY

The ship...? oh, no, Lachlan... he didn't just...?

CHARLES

Relax, Mary. I doubt he did he killed them. Besides, I only heard one shot.

MARY

He could have stabbed or cut open the others.

CHARLES

Mary, please, just relax-

LACHLAN

(behind doors)

Edward! Make yourself useful and go get two bottles of rum, now!

EDWARD

(behind doors)

Aye, Cap'n! Two bottles of rum it is!

(EDWARD and LACHLAN enter through doors)

MARY

They're back! Charles, quickly get Edward.

(CHARLES gets up in EDWARD's path)

EDWARD

Ahem, yer in my way, mate. The Cap'n needs rum, and I'll be damned if I-

CHARLES

Mary wants to see you. Sit down.

EDWARD

Did you not hear me? I said-

CHARLES

Sit. (forces EDWARD into chair)

MARY

Hello, Edward. How nice of you to stop by and talk.

EDWARD

Mary?! I... uh... I can't, really. The Cap'n wants some rum, and you know what he's like when he doesn't get his rum.

MARY

I know what he's like when he has too much as well. He can wait. (to CHARLES) Thank you for getting Edward's attention, Charles. Go discuss the plan with the rest of the crew.

(CHARLES nods and exits)

MARY

Now then, Edward, let's begin.

EDWARD

Again, Mary, I really can't-

(EDWARD quickly gets up before noticing MARY lay her hand on the pistol on the table; quickly sits down)

MARY

Edward, I know you might consider me an enemy, but I need to discuss that little plan of mine with you.

EDWARD

If the Cap'n's against it, so am I.

MARY

Yes, well, before we get into that, I need to know: what did you two do to the merchants?

EDWARD

Well, that's... that's assumin' we went back to the ship... which we didn't do, in fact. We... uh... we... um... wwweeee just... wanted to drink outside. Aye, drink outside.

MARY

Edward, (grips pistol) you're not fooling anyone. Lachlan said you were going to the ship to "teach the merchants a lesson."

EDWARD

It's Cap'n, Mary.

MARY

What?

EDWARD

He prefers "Cap'n." Ye don't call him by his name.

MARY

What did you and the "Captain" do to the merchants?

EDWARD

Well... nothin'. Er, not nothin' we just... gave 'em a warnin', is all.

(MARY lifts pistol slightly; EDWARD notices)

EDWARD

W-we did that, but we also... tossed one around a bit.

MARY

What do you mean?

EDWARD

Ya know... shook 'im, threw 'im to the ground... I think the Cap'n shot 'im-

MARY

Is he dead?

EDWARD

No, no, he's fine. He has a leg wound, but fine.

MARY

Did you dress the wound in any way?

EDWARD

Why would we do that? They're prisoners! Nobody cares what'll happen to 'em.

MARY

Damn it, Edward. He might need an amputation now.

EDWARD

Anyway, I really should. (gets up) Cap'n's probably gettin' a bit restless now-

(MARY quickly cocks and fires pistol into the air)

MARY

Sit. Down. Edward.

(EDWARD quickly sits back down)

MARY

I think now is a good time to mention something about you I hate, Edward.

EDWARD

You hate me? Not very surprisin'-

MARY

I don't hate you, Edward! I hate something ABOUT you.

EDWARD

Isn't that the same thin'?

MARY

No, but what I'm trying to say is this: you're too attached to Lachlan for whatever reason. You're like his parrot trained to only to say "Yes," incapable of saying "No." Of course, if you actually respect Lachlan, you could add a "Cap'n" to that "No."

EDWARD

Now wait, what d'you mean "if I actually respect the Cap'n?"

MARY

(short pause)

I mean this, Edward. (points pistol at EDWARD; EDWARD flinches and cowers) See? This is the only reason you haven't left the table. It's also the only reason you listen to Lachlan, why you agree with him. Am I correct, Edward?

EDWARD

(glances behind MARY, moves in towards her)

He can be little frightenin' sometimes...

MARY

I'm aware of that, Edward. What you told me about the merchant is more proof we can add to the pile. However, let me ask you this - do you like living in fear of Lachlan?

EDWARD

No... but... I have to.

MARY

(short pause)

What? You have to? Edward, no one has to live like-

EDWARD

No, I do, Mary... I... (short pause) Can you keep a secret?

MARY

(short pause, lowers pistol)

Yes, I can.

EDWARD

(short pause)

Several years ago, before I met Lachlan, I lived in the Soreillean capital city, Parlis, where I lived as a servant to a noble family.

MARY

Wait, you're telling the truth?

EDWARD

Aye, I am, and if you want proof (rolls up right sleeve to reveal a scar that reads "JBM"), there it is.

MARY

What in the world...?

EDWARD

Those initials stand for Jean-Baptiste Mervain. I was given this brand so others knew my place and master.

MARY

(shocked)

Mervain?

EDWARD

Aye, Mervain. A noble family. Servin' those bastards was a livin' hell every day, all feelin' left me as I went through one abuse after another, whether it be days without sleep or punishment for slightly spillin' wine.

MARY

Oh, gods...

EDWARD

I was never sent on errands... never understood why... but the one day I was sent out, I found him at the docks, askin' others about wantin' to join his crew. I asked if he could take me away from Parlis, away from this hell, join his crew, and he said yes.

MARY

I take it "he" is Lachlan?

EDWARD

Aye, it was. He warned me about what he did and that I would be a wanted criminal for helpin' him, but I just ignored that. He promised me an escape, a better life... he fulfilled that promise, and for that I'm forever in his debt. (short pause) So now you see why I can't just betray him like that, after all he did for me.

MARY

(short pause)

Edward, did I ever tell you why I joined this crew?

EDWARD

(short pause)

No, I don't think ye did. Why? Is that important?

MARY

Just listen, aye? Now then, I, much like you, hadn't intended to become a pirate. I, like you, sought an escape from a life I had no future in, a life chosen for me and not by me... My parents set me up for an arranged marriage.

EDWARD

Arranged marriage...?

MARY

Aye. You see, the day I joined your crew, I was introduced to the man that would be my husband, and-

EDWARD

How pretty was he?

(MARY grimaces)

EDWARD (Cont'd)

I thought so.

MARY

And... and he had terrible manners and a terrible occupation: banker. Who marries bankers? Smug little shites are no better than barnacles. Anyway, after I met him, I just decided to run to the harbor and take the first ship out of port, and that's when I ran into Lachlan... and here I am. He asked only that I serve as his boatswain, and I have. Besides, after observing him since my addition to the crew, I realized that perhaps I should have found someone else. However, I have no debts to repay, nothing binding me to him. All things considered, if I could get rid of him, I would.

EDWARD

Wait, Mary-

MARY

Edward, once I joined, I slowly came to realize that this crew is my only family now, and like any family, I should look out for it. My loyalties lie with Charles and the others, not with Lachlan. And just like any other family out there, when you have a dysfunctional member, you disown them.

EDWARD

Disown them?

MARY

Yes, Edward. By getting rid of Lachlan, we're helping the family we've come to know and trust on our ship. We'll be making all of our lives even better... yours included. Besides, I thought you joined Lachlan's crew to escape fear and abuse.

EDWARD

(short pause)

Mary... your story... ye said you were going to be in an arranged marriage?

MARY

Aye, I did.

EDWARD

(short pause, slightly angry)

An arranged marriage... does that mean... you're from the nobility?

MARY

I am.

EDWARD

(short pause)

What family d'you come from?

MARY

(short pause)

Mervain.

(EDWARD slams his hands on the table and stands up, staring furiously at MARY)

EDWARD

YER A BLOODY MERVAIN?!

MARY

Wait, Edward! Just listen to-

(EDWARD draws his pistol at MARY; MARY backs slightly)

EDWARD

You bitch! You're one of them! One of those bastards that made my life hell!

MARY

Edward, please! Just listen to me!

EDWARD

Why should I?! I had to listen to yer orders for years! Why should I listen to you now?!

MARY

Edward, calm down. I will explain everything, just calm down.

EDWARD

You don't need to explain anythin'. (cocks pistol) I've heard everythin' I need to.

CHARLES

(O.S.)

MARY!

(EDWARD turns around to see CHARLES run onstage. EDWARD quickly turns around and aims at MARY, who hasn't moved. CHARLES grabs EDWARD's gun hand and forces it skyward. EDWARD misfires. CHARLES now has EDWARD a chokehold.)

CHARLES

The hell are you doin', Mary?

MARY

Charles? What... what are you...?

CHARLES

I heard everythin' I needed to. Yer head gone to shit the ten minutes I've been gone?

MARY

I... I thought that...

CHARLES

You thought wrong, lass. Now, (to EDWARD) you goin' to behave? Or would you like to talk to my pistol instead?

(EDWARD slowly ceases his struggling)

CHARLES (Cont'd)

Good lad.

(CHARLES releases EDWARD; EDWARD glares furiously at MARY)

CHARLES (Cont'd)

Now, mind tellin' me yer plan here, lass?

MARY

(short pause, looking at EDWARD)

Gaining Edward's trust.

CHARLES

By sayin' yer from the family that essentially enslaved him?

MARY

Charles, we both ran away from that family, and I'm part of it. Mervain blood flows through my veins, and I resent that about me... hell, it's the only thing about me I despise.

EDWARD

Mary...

CHARLES

I know my request might be hard for ya, lad, but I need you to listen and think for once, aye?

MARY

Charles, please...

CHARLES

Aye, I'll lay off.

MARY

Edward... I just remembered something... something from my childhood... my father was furious about chores not being done, about a servant sent out on errands, only to never return... I now realize... that servant... was you.

EDWARD

(short pause)

Now that I think about it, I remember the son of a bitch I called a master havin' a daughter named Mary... Never expected you to run away like that.

MARY

So you understand now, Edward? We come from different bloodlines, but share the same feelings for my family. Now you understand why I want to overthrow Lachlan?

(EDWARD remains silent, lost in thought)

MARY

Edward... think it over. I don't expect an answer now, but hopefully within the hour.

EDWARD

That's a lot to think about...

MARY

I know, but just... just think it over, all right?

EDWARD

(short pause)

I don't know... it is a mutiny yer plannin'... I'd best be gettin' the Cap'n his rum now. (begins to leave, stops and turns back to MARY) And I will think about it.

(MARY smiles; EDWARD turns and exits. MARY fastens cutlass to her waist. Takes pistol out.)

MARY

I'm surprised he fell for the unloaded pistol trick. (MARY holsters pistol) Did you talk to the others, Charles?

CHARLES

Aye, I did. Some of the crew wish to meet you outside.

MARY

Then let's not keep them waiting.

CHARLES

(grabs MARY's arm)

Warn me the next time you plan to pull a stunt like that.

(MARY nods; MARY and CHARLES exit through doors; EDWARD enters and returns to his and LACHLAN's table)

LACHLAN

About damn time you showed up!

EDWARD

Sorry, Cap'n. Somethin' came up.

LACHLAN

I heard. What was it that caused you to yell so much, and so loudly?

EDWARD

Mary, Cap'n. You were right. She's plannin' a mutiny.

(LACHLAN's eyes widen; he angrily grabs and opens a bottle of rum and drinks from it furiously; EDWARD pours himself some rum as lights fade out)

END SCENE TWO

SCENE THREE

(Lights fade in to LACHLAN sitting at his table, drunk and holding a bottle of rum in one hand and a bucket in the other. Numerous rum bottles join the ship model on the table. EDWARD is leaning over the second floor banister, fiddling with his pistol.)

LACHLAN

You remember the plan, aye?

EDWARD

Aye, I do.

LACHLAN

Good, cause I don't.

EDWARD

Don't worry, Cap'n. I'll take care of it.

(MARY and CHARLES enter through the doors and begin to call over and converse with invisible crew members)

EDWARD

She's here. Noble bitch...

(EDWARD cocks and aims his pistol and is about to fire)

LACHLAN

WAIT!

(LACHLAN drunkenly gets up, but falls back onto the table drunkenly, knocking off the ship model. LACHLAN, still holding the bucket but not the rum bottle, runs up to EDWARD and snatches his pistol out of his hand)

EDWARD

Cap'n! What're you doin'?

LACHLAN

A better idea. Go down there and fight 'em.

EDWARD

What? Fight them? Cap'n, it'll be me against the entire crew!

LACHLAN

Exactly. It'll be fun... for me. (short pause, waits for EDWARD)
Well, come on now. Off you go.

EDWARD

But, Cap'n-

LACHLAN

I said go!

EDWARD

Cap'n, wait-!

(LACHLAN takes the bucket and whacks EDWARD on the back of his head; EDWARD tumbles over the banister and falls to the first floor; EDWARD is immediately unconscious, but appears dead)

CHARLES

The hell was that?

MARY

Oh gods... Edward!

LACHLAN

Whoops... oh well, I guess I have to find another quartermaster... (to MARY) Hey! You! Traitor bitch! Wanna be my new quartermaster? I won't take no for an answer. (before MARY can answer) Actually, forget that. I'd rather you be a dead woman than my personal whore!

(LACHLAN clumsily takes EDWARD's pistol and fires at MARY/CHARLES, misses)

LACHLAN (Cont'd)

Ah, damn it!

(LACHLAN holsters pistol and takes out one of his and fires, misses again; takes out his second and misses again)

LACHLAN (Cont'd)

What the-? Goddamn dumbass whoreson pieces of shit!

MARY

You having trouble there, Lachlan?

LACHLAN

Cap'n! I'm still the goddamn Cap'n!

MARY

Not anymore, Lachlan.

CHARLES

Aye, she speaks the truth! We, the crew of the Crimson Raven, hereby declare Mary our new Captain!

(Sounds of crew cheering)

LACHLAN

I don't give a damn who you want the cap'n to be! I'm the Cap'n of the Crimson Raven! And no one else will be so long as I draw breath!

MARY

Looks like you've forced my hand, then.

(MARY unsheathes cutlass, CHARLES does the same; LACHLAN walks downstairs to face them while he unsheathes a cutlass and dagger)

LACHLAN

So it's a duel to the death, then? Very well, I'll just finished what I started. They don't call me the Devil Pirate for nothing, you know.

MARY

Oh, I know. You made very sure we all knew that. "He's dressed as a man, but fights like the devil himself."

LACHLAN

Then you're both fools... I almost pity you, ya know?

MARY

And I you. After all, you'll be drowning for eternity in Davy Jones' locker when I'm finished with you.

LACHLAN

Now you asked for it you rancorous whore!

(LACHLAN lunges at MARY and CHARLES, beginning their battle. LACHLAN attacks primarily with his cutlass to prompt blocks from MARY so he can sneak in a stab from his dagger, but MARY is expertly dodging them due to LACHLAN's drunken clumsiness. MARY is able to attack back as well, but doesn't get any hits in. CHARLES constantly tries to sneak attacks in, but each ones is deflected

by LACHLAN's counters. Eventually, LACHLAN and MARY lock blades; LACHLAN pushes MARY back; as she stumbles backwards, MARY trips over CHARLES, both fall to the ground; everyone ends up on ground floor near EDWARD's body)

MARY

Excellent work there, you old, clumsy sack of shite!

CHARLES

Says the one who- Shit!

(MARY and CHARLES quickly roll away from an incoming attack from LACHLAN, but MARY ends up getting slashed on her sword arm)

MARY

Argh! Damn it! Got careless! (begins pulling out pistol with other hand and aims)

LACHLAN

Yes you did!

(LACHLAN kicks MARY's pistol out of her hand just as she fires, causing her to miss; LACHLAN drops his dagger and grabs MARY's neck, forcing her to MARY and CHARLES' table and slamming her head into it; MARY drops her cutlass; LACHLAN kicks it away, CHARLES enters with his cutlass out)

CHARLES

MARY! Don't worry, I-

LACHLAN

Ah, ah ,ah! Don't you come runnin' over here, Charles! In fact, no one even try lifting a finger to help poor Mutinous Mary here! If you do, (places cutlass's blade over MARY's neck) it's bye-bye for her!

(CHARLES backs off, cursing)

LACHLAN

Now then, where were we? ...Ah yes! Looks like even blackout drunk I can still best you in a fight. (looks down at EDWARD, who is still regaining consciousness) I honestly didn't expect the bastard to live. Thought I cut him up too much, severed an artery considerin' how much he bled. However, I doubt he has much time left, so how about we do him a favor?

(EDWARD begins crawling away from LACHLAN and towards the dropped dagger, begins crawling behind LACHLAN when he gets it)

MARY

The hell are you... talking about?

LACHLAN

Simple. He might be annoyin' as hell, but he was the only member of the crew still loyal to me, so I think before he leaves to visit our friends downstairs, I should give him a thank you present for all his hard work and loyalty. So here's what we're gonna do; in honor of the loyal yet idiotic quartermaster, Edward, you're gonna straddle his face and give him his last meal! (laughs maniacally)

MARY

Flog off!

LACHLAN

And then after that, I'll kill you. Simple as that! Now then, let's-

(LACHLAN turns to where EDWARD was laying, notices he's gone)

LACHLAN (Cont'd)

The hell...? Where did he run off to?

(EDWARD stabs LACHLAN in the back with the dagger; LACHLAN cries out in pain, drops his cutlass and his hold on MARY; MARY drops to the ground, gasping for air; EDWARD removes the dagger from LACHLAN's back; MARY begins reaching for her cutlass)

LACHLAN

You...! After all I've done for you... NOW you decide to betray me! I shoulda known you would backstab me eventually!

EDWARD

I... I only was... was goin' to do it... figur... figuratively at first...

(MARY, realizing the danger EDWARD is in, instead quickly reaches for the weapon closest to her: the bucket LACHLAN dropped before)

LACHLAN

Well, aren't you hilarious? Let's see how funny you are once I end your miserable EXISTENCE!

(LACHLAN rushes towards EDWARD; MARY quickly jumps up and slams the bucket on LACHLAN's head; LACHLAN falls to the ground unconscious; pause as MARY and EDWARD wait to see if LACHLAN will get up)

EDWARD

Mary? Did... did you just kill Lachlan?

MARY
(short pause)

I... I don't know.

(MARY smiles, EDWARD looks back at LACHLAN's body before collapsing to the ground unconscious; MARY runs up and kneels next to EDWARD)

MARY

Edward? Edward? (Short pause, checks EDWARD's vitals) Argh, damn it! Charles! I need you to and some others to go get some medical supplies from the ship! We need to save Edward!

CHARLES

Are you sure, Mary? After all, the bastard-

MARY

Yes, I'm sure! Go! Now!

(CHARLES runs offstage; MARY turns back to EDWARD)

MARY

Don't worry Edward, you'll be fine.

END SCENE THREE

SCENE FOUR

(The next morning. First floor table table, bottles and bucket still where they were after the fight. Ship model is gone, and a note is on the table in front of LACHLAN, who is slouched in a nearby chair. LACHLAN makes no inclination to being alive until, after a pause, begins to wake up.)

LACHLAN

Huh? (short pause) Wha' the...? ARGH! Ah! My head! How much did I drink last night?

(LACHLAN pauses, looks around room)

LACHLAN

Where the hell am I? (short pause) Oh, that's right. The tavern. Well, I guess I should get back to my... What is this?

(LACHLAN picks up the note and walks around room while reading it)

LACHLAN

Dear Former Captain Lachlan: I do not know whether you will remember much of what happened last night, so in case you do not, I will just tell you. I wasn't planning a mutiny, just a vote to head back to Soreille. However, your actions last night prompted me and the crew to mutiny. We saw it as necessary for the good of everyone, including yourself. We have taken the ship and left you with ten gold, silver, and copper pieces each. We also patched your wounds from the skirmish the two of us had. As thanks for not letting you die, I expect you to become a better man than you were before. Perhaps when next we meet, you will already be that better man. May the winds of fortune be at your back. Love, Captain Mary.

(LACHLAN slowly lowers the letter as he realizes what's happened, keeping a thousand yard stare going until the lights go out completely)

END SCENE

SCENE FIVE

(Deck of a ship. All tables gone, second floor now an aftcastle/helm of the ship. Crew singing "Captain Kidd" in the background. Lights brighten to reveal CHARLES and EDWARD waiting outside doors.)

CHARLES

(knocks on door)

Mary! Edward's up! He wishes to speak with you!

MARY

One moment!

(short pause, MARY enters from doors wearing more Captain-esque attire)

MARY (Cont'd)

Well? What do you think?

CHARLES

Wow! You look... quite astonishing, lass.

EDWARD

Ye look excellent, Cap'n.

MARY

Thank you, boys. Now, what is it?

EDWARD

I take it I'm here because I'm still part of the crew, aye, Mary?

MARY

Aye. And?

EDWARD

If I'm still part of the Crimson Raven's crew, I think I should remain her quartermaster, aye?

MARY

Do you?

EDWARD

I... well, aye. What do ye mean, Mary?

MARY

Is that so, Edward? Do you believe this?

EDWARD

Aye, I think it's reasonable, Cap'n.

MARY

Do you? Because I don't

EDWARD

I... what do ye mean, Cap'n?

MARY

I trusted you, Edward, to think about the mutiny, not rat us out to Lachlan over it. After all, I wouldn't have nearly died if you actually said nothing to him.

EDWARD

So what if I did? I... I made up for it by stabbin' him!

MARY

Then I owe you nothing. Charles, you are to be my new quartermaster, effective immediately.

CHARLES

It would be my pleasure, Cap'n.

EDWARD

W-w-wait! But... but I've ALWAYS been the quartermaster!

MARY

Not anymore, Edward. From now on, you'll be spending your days scrubbing the decks and cleaning the cannons. No objections.

EDWARD

Damn noble! Now that yer the cap'n, you just go back to yer normal ways! Knew I couldn't trust you!

MARY

You're one to talk, Edward. Charles, get him out of here.

(CHARLES takes EDWARD and forces him offstage; CHARLES returns to MARY)

MARY

Thank you, Charles. Is there anything else you'd like to discuss?

CHARLES

No, Cap'n, I don't... (stops as he notices ship model now above door)
Isn't that from the tavern, Mary?

MARY

Aye, it is. Nice, isn't it. Tavernkeep said I could have it for dealing with Lachlan.

CHARLES

It looks very similar to the Crimson Raven.

MARY

Aye, it does. (short pause) You know, I think we should rename the ship. "The Crimson Raven" doesn't agree with me.

CHARLES

What do you propose we name it, then?

MARY

(short pause as she thinks)

How about...?

(lights fade out)

END SCENE FIVE

THE END