



Nantucket Boys

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Written by

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PAu004037288.

Character List

- John Taylor - Male -40s- Fit - Harpooner
- Helen Taylor - Female- Late 30s, Wife of John
- Daniel Taylor - Male - 16
- David Taylor - Male - 15
- Joao - African Witch Doctor - Male 40s
- Aaron Boston - African American - Male - 16 - Friend of Daniel and David.
- Ines Boston - African American - Female - 30s Mother of Aaron, Wife of Matthew
- Matthew Boston - African American - Male - 40s - Harpooner and Friend of John Taylor and Tryal Sippican
- Tryal Sippican - Native American - Male - 40s - Harpooner and Friend of John Taylor and Matthew Boston
- Mrs. Brickhouse - African American - Female 60s - Friend of Ines Boston and Woman of Faith
- First Mate of the Ulylsees. - Male - 50s - Professional and Kind
- Captain Hammond - Male - Late 50s - All Business
- Padre Santos - Male - 50s - Scholarly and Kind
- Linda - Female - 20s - African Nurse/Caregiver
- African Chief - Male - 50s
- Chief's Son - Male - 12
- Tribesmen - Males - Various Ages (At least 10)
- Silas Henry - Male - 16 - Town Bully
- Silas's Posse - Males - Late Teens - Scruffy
- Constable Green - Male - 40s - Tall
- First Mate Of Mail Ship From Capo Verde - Male - 50s
- Captain of Mail Ship From Capo Verde - Male - 50s
- Ronaldo - Carpenter of Mail Ship - Male - 40s
- Robert - Carpenter of Northern Lights - Male - 40s
- First Mate of Northern Lights - Male - 50s
- Captain of Northern Lights - Male - 50s
- Cook's Helper of Northern Lights - Male 20s
- Omri - Warehouse Thief - Male - 30s - 40s - Large
- Manasseh - Warehouse Thief - Male - 30s
- Mr. Withers - Male - 50s - Rude - Owner of Withers Boat Yard
- Tom Murphy - Male - 50s - Owner of Bristol Boat Yard
- Mrs. Murphy - Female - 50s - Kind
- Reverend Smith - Male - 50s - Pastor of African Meeting House
- Mrs. Smith - Female - 50s - Wife of Pastor Smith
- Morgan Healey - Male - 40s - Lobsterman
- Three Disreputable Men - Males - 30s - One of the Three is Named Boom Boom Large
- Sons of Reverend and Mrs. Smith - Males - Age 18, 17, 16,15
- Postman - Male - 40s
- Lisa - African American Female - Age 16 - Apprentice Seamstress to Ines
- James Rutledge - Male - 40s - Owner of Dry Goods Store On Martha's Vineyard
- Elizabeth Rutledge - Female - 30s - Wife of James
- Lucy Rutledge - Female - 6 years old - Daughter of James and Elizabeth
- Beth Rutledge - Female - 5 years old - Daughter of James and Elizabeth
- Martha Sippican - Native American Female - 30s - Wife of Tryal Sippican
- Tryal Sippican - Male - 10 years old - Son of Tryal and Martha
- Beth Sippican -Female - 8 years old - Daughter of Tryal and Martha
- Chief - Male - 60s - Father of Tryal
- Medicine Man - Male - 60s
- Second Set of Wreckers - 3 Males - Various Ages - Wild

- Satan - Age ? - Appears as an Outline in Fire
- James Norton - Male - 20s - Former Employee of Mr. Withers
- Clive Amesbury - Male - 30s - Employee of Wither's Boatyard
- Carlos - Male - 40s - One of 7 Disreputable Men Plus 2 Women
- Remaining 6 Disreputable Men - Males - 20s,30s,40s, 2 Females -30s-
- Elderly Couple - Male plus Female - 70s
- Mr. Davis - Male 40s - Rosey Cheeked
- Martha - Mother of Lisa - Female - 40s
- Thomas - Brother of Lisa - Male - 17 - Years old
- Wampanoag Indian Braves - Males - 20s - 30s

FADE IN

EXT. NANTUCKET ISLAND 1850 - SINGLE CLAPBOARD HOUSE -
DAWN

INT. SAME HOUSE - ONGOING

John Taylor is sitting at a rough-hewn table finishing his coffee as he looks upon his sons fast asleep in a shared double bed. His wife looks at him with unfounded anger and resentment.

HELEN TAYLOR

I can't believe you're leaving me again just so you can go to sea with your uncivilized friends. The great harpooner. I should be in Boston but I'm stuck in this tiny house trying to make due on what little you earn. I should be living in a grand house hosting parties for the right sort of people.

JOHN TAYLOR

We have two fine sons and a warm sturdy home. I'm grateful for little things and don't plan on changing any time soon.

John washes his cup in metal pail resting on their side board and places it in the drying rack. He then picks up his sea bag and departs gently closing the door behind him.

EXT. SAME HOUSE - DAY

After stepping outside John uses the rope that runs the length of his canvas bag to position it diagonally across his back. He then picks up the two harpoons that were leaning against the house and balances each of them on his shoulders with his free hands. Once he is away from his little home he starts to whistle to himself as he walks in the direction of the harbor.

INT. SAME HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

After John leaves his sons open the single door that leads to their home and silently close it once they are outside.

EXT. SAME HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

They follow their father's form as he heads to the center of town without giving themselves away.

EXT. TOP OF A HILL OVERLOOKING THE HARBOR - DAY

Before David and Daniel reach the town they take a left turn and head towards a hill which has an unobstructed view of the harbor and the whaling ship that will soon take their father to sea. Daniel, the oldest of his two sons takes out his most prized possession, a brass telescope, and with it they see their father. In another moment Daniel and David are joined by their friend Aaron Boston. Aaron is the son of Matthew Boston, a harpooner like their father and one of John Taylor's closest friends.

AARON BOSTON

How'd you guys know about this place?

DAVID TAYLOR

Duh! We showed you this place last week.

AARON BOSTON

I'm just kidding. Hey can I take a look through the scope?

DANIEL TAYLOR

Okay but we each get thirty seconds and then we pass it around.

AARON BOSTON

Deal!

Daniel then passes him the telescope for his thirty second turn.

EXT. DOCKSIDE WAITING TO SIGN THE SHIP'S LOG - ONGOING

John Taylor is waiting behind an able-bodied seaman in order to sign the log book of the Whaler named Ulysses. The ship's log serves as a record of his presence on the upcoming voyage as well as his share of the ship's income if the voyage is a success. As he waits he notes that the man who signed before him has left an X. Following this, John steps forward and signs in very excellent script.

FIRST MATE

Glad to have you aboard Mr. Taylor. A harpooner like yourself is worth his weight in gold.

JOHN TAYLOR

Thank you sir.

FIRST MATE

I can see by your signature
that you have an education.

JOHN TAYLOR

My mother was a teacher.

FIRST MATE

No sense letting all that book
learning of yours go to waste.
When I'm on the wheel, stop by now
and then and I'll make a
navigator out of you.

JOHN TAYLOR

Thank you sir, I'll do that.

John Taylor makes his way up the narrow wooden gangway.
Waiting at the top is Matthew Boston.

MATTHEW BOSTON

There he is. Me and Tryal got you
a dry spot under the bow. Best get
your hammock hung or someone else
will try to take your place.

JOHN TAYLOR

You guys are the best. First I had
better stow my harpoons

MATTHEW BOSTON

Give em here. I'll stow them next
to mine.

JOHN TAYLOR

Thanks.

John stands his harpoons up straight and Matthew takes them
away for storage. John then heads towards the bow of the boat
where Tryal Sippican is waiting. When John reaches Tryal he
is greeted with a smile of recognition.

TRYAL SIPPICAN

We got you a spot in the middle.
Don't worry about the gas or the
snoring when you get a chance to
rest you're head you could probably
sleep standing up.

JOHN TAYLOR

Been there. Done that.

John quickly secures and hangs both his hammock and his
sea bag

TRYAL SIPPICAN

We'd best get over by the main
mast. Captain Hammond will be
raising the sails in just a bit.

No sooner had Tryal uttered these last words when the
commands are given and the ships mooring lines are untied.

FIRST MATE

Raise sails!

The main and jib sails are promptly raised. As the ship makes
its way into open waters the remaining sails are raised. The
boys continue to watch all that takes place.

EXT. TOP OF SMALL HILL - ONGOING

DAVID TAYLOR

I still see them. He's with your
dad and Tryal working on the main
sail.

AARON BOSTON

Quick let me take a look before
they go out of sight!

DAVID TAYLOR

Okay. Just remember the thirty
second rule.

EXT. ATLANTIC OCEAN - DAY

Weeks pass without a whale sighting as Tryal, John and
Matthew take turns in the ship's crow's nest keeping a sharp
eye out. Whenever John has a free moment he is seen near the
First Mate who schools this apt and willing student in the
finer points of navigation. While Tryal is performing his
duties as a lookout, a pod of whales is spotted 400 miles
north of Cape Horn and within sight of the coast of
Argentina. Wanting to be sure before he calls out Tryal
notes the Whales he sees are Killer Whales and keeps silent.
After he descends to the main deck the First Mate approaches
him.

FIRST MATE

I thought I saw something off the
port bow but I couldn't get a clear
enough view to make the call.

TRYAL SIPPICAN

They were Killer Whales for
sure. No good for oil.

FIRST MATE

Your no is good enough for me.

Several days later the captain addresses the crew.

CAPTAIN HAMMOND

Men these Argentinian waters are a
bust. We're going to chart a
course for Africa. We'll start off
near the Cape of Good Hope and
then run north along the west
coast. That way we'll run into the
whales as they head south. A
double round of grog for all
before we skip lively and fill the
ship's belly full of oil. A double
portion of grog at supper for good
luck!

All together
Hip hip hooray!

EXT. COAST OF PORTUGUESE GUINEA - DAY

The Ulysses makes its way steadily up the west coast of Africa without sighting a single whale. This changes when the ship enters the coastal waters of Portuguese Guinea. Tryal is in the crow's nest when he sees what at first looks like dark shadows leaping in the distance. A passing cloud momentarily takes the direct rays of the sun from his eyes and allows him to clearly identify the whales as humpbacks. He immediately signals by blowing the whistle he carries and by shouting.

TRYAL SIPPICAN

Whale! Whale! Whale! Humpbacks!
Port bow! Port bow!

The First Mate immediately sounds his own whistle and looks up at the crow's nest where Tryal is pointing. The Captain runs to where the First Mate is standing and immediately begins shouting orders.

CAPTAIN HAMMOND

Full sails right 12 Degrees!

The First Mate then mans the wheel while the men on deck raise sails and secure them in place. The Captain intends a course that will allow the whale boats to intercept the many whales that are breaking in plain sight.

This practiced art would have worked if not for the fact that the Ulysses and its crew are intercepted by a sailing ship manned by Barbary pirates. As soon as the Ulysses is within striking distance the false flagged pirate vessel that is hidden behind a bend in the shore appears and lets loose with two six-pound deck guns that splinter the main mast of the Ulysses. Pirates with Flintlocks then pepper the decks wounding or killing half of the men on board. Tryal is one of the few crew members who doesn't waste a moment. He immediately grabs two harpoons and skewers two of the pirates who are foolish enough to stand out in the open. Sharpshooters positioned in the yard arms notice Tryal and quickly shoot both him and the Captain. The first mate then advances and bravely attempts to load the swivel gun when he is shot by one of the marksmen still firing from the top mast of the pirate ship. John notes the pirates bringing more powder to the six pounders that had originally destroyed the main mast of the Ulysses. At this, he runs to the nearest whaling boat and brings two of the harpoons back with him. He hands both to Matthew Boston.

JOHN TAYLOR

Matthew wrap the points in cut pieces of sail. I'll get us some whale oil from below. If we're lucky we can set fire to the powder magazine on the pirate ship.

MATTHEW BOSTON

Good thinking.

John and Matthew soon have several harpoons fitted with cloths soaked in whale oil while a lamp with the glass chimney removed is used to ignite the rags after which, both harpooners throw their deadly missiles in the direction of a collection of powder barrels and spilled powder. Both harpoons fly true and the resulting explosion blows a hole in the center of the pirate vessel that might have ended the battle if the pirates didn't throw several hand grenades consisting of glass bottles filled with gun powder, nails and glass fragments. The ends of the bottles are capped except for a dangling fuse which is lit before throwing. One such device explodes as it lands near John Taylor causing him to lose consciousness while, at the same time, causing severe damage to his right leg. John's friend Matthew sees that he is hurt and wastes no time putting him in a long boat facing away from the burning inferno now engulfing the pirate vessel. Matthew is also injured but ignores the searing pain in his back as he rows his friend in the direction of a nearby beach. Catching sight of a Priest along with some members of his flock running to pull their boat to shore., he knows that his task is accomplished. Before he passes on he looks at his wounded friend and speaks his final words.

MATTHEW BOSTON
 (CONT'D) Brother, when you cross
 over to the other side, I'll be
 waiting for you.

INT. SMALL ADOBE HOUSE NEAR MISSION CHURCH PORTUGUESE GUINEA
 - SIX MONTHS LATER - DAY

An elderly priest enters the simple structure shocked to see that John Taylor is attempting to sweep while balancing on a crutch which had been made for him by one of the village craftsmen.

PADRE SANTOS
 John..John...This isn't necessary.
 Linda will be in soon. If she sees
 you doing her job she'll think I'm
 going to fire her.

JOHN TAYLOR
 O Padre Santos. I'm just trying to
 feel useful.

PADRE SANTOS
 You've made a remarkable recovery.
 At first we thought you were
 marked for death, but Linda went
 into the bush, collected various
 herbs and made cures that are
 known to the native people.

JOHN TAYLOR
 She obviously knows what she's
 doing because I still have my leg
 and I'm still here. Padre I had
 been meaning to ask you ...

PADRE SANTOS
 Let me guess, you want to return to
 your family on Nantucket. Within
 the month we should receive a visit
 from a mail ship from Capo Verde.
 From there you should be able to
 gain passage on a ship heading for
 Nantucket. I'll give you letters
 of introduction that should help.
 Besides I've seen how clever you
 are with your hands. If you
 volunteered to work, say as a
 ship's carpenter, I'm sure you
 could make your way across the
 Atlantic.

JOHN TAYLOR

Thank you Padre. I will repay you
some day if I'm able.

PADRE SANTOS

Don't worry about that. It's been
interesting for me to practice my
English with someone who had to
stay put and not just run away. I
feel sad for Linda. She is probably
most responsible for nursing you
back to health.

JOHN TAYLOR

I'm grateful.

PADRE SANTOS

Keep true to your faith and the
love of God will not leave you.

JOHN TAYLOR

I will.

EXT. TWENTY MILES AWAY IN THE INTERIOR OF PORTUGUESE GUINEA
- DAY

Joao a witch doctor who serves Satan is seen in front of a
small cave. The local chief and a group of warriors
approach.

CHIEF

Is my son healed?

JOAO

Call to him and you will see.

CHIEF

Amadu! Come out this is your
father. Come to me!

A young boy,, who appears to be in a daze comes slowly out of
the cave as his father takes him in his arms.

JOAO

And now? My payment.

The chief signals to one of his men and a warrior brings
forth an eleven year old boy who has his arms tied behind his
back. In addition, a rope is tied around his neck. The witch
doctor takes the rope and roughly drags the terrified boy
into the cave while the crowd which had been surrounding the
cave quickly disperses.

INT. CAVE LIT BY NUMEROUS TORCHES - CONTINUOUS

Joao ties the terrified boy to a post as he sits before a fire whose smoke escapes through a hole in the roof of the cave.

JOAO

Oh, Prince of Darkness, I Joao
come before you with my offering. I
come to offer praise but I also
come to know your will. I have not
asked before, but if it pleases
you, appear before me so that I
may offer praise and do your
bidding.

Joao quickly rises as the boys scream is heard. Joao returns with a bowl of warm blood that has been taken from the now dead boy. He bows his head as he scatters the blood over the fire which suddenly doubles in size and fury. A shadow of a horned figure is seen in the flames as The Evil One's voice is heard.

THE EVIL ONE

Joao my servant your loyalty has
not gone unnoticed. You have done
all that I have asked but I have a
great task to set before you.

Joao who has thrown himself on the ground raises his head as he looks into the fire.

JOAO

What would you have me do oh
master?

THE EVIL ONE

I want you to travel to the place
known as America. The land is young
and the souls are many. I would
have you gather them for me.

JOAO

I will go and hunt for you. I swear
that blood will flow!

The fire once again doubles in ferocity as the Evil One's shadow disappears.

EXT. HARBOR OF PORTUGUESE GUINEA - DAY

Two months later Padre Santos and Linda embrace John Taylor before he boards the Portuguese Trading vessel for Capo Verde. John Presents Padre Santos with a hand carved crucifix. He then gives Linda a well-executed elephant.

PADRE SANTOS

God speed!

LINDA

Goodbye John Stewart.

John makes his way on board the ship using his crutch to steady himself as he makes his way up the gang plank. Once on board, he is grateful for the fact that he didn't fall.

INT. BELOW DECKS OF PORTUGUESE TRADING SHIP HEADED FOR CAPO VERDE - NIGHT

A mess hand is sent to gather Potatoes from a barrel by the ship's cook. He hears movement near one of the forward bulkheads and sees Joao taking an apple from a barrel with a covered top. Joao sees him and waves his hand causing the sailor to go dumb. He then slits his throat with a concealed belt knife. When he finishes he walks to a designated spot and removes two floor boards. Before hiding in the space provided he looks on and smiles at the sight of the murdered sailor.

EXT. NANTUCKET HARBOR - DAY

David and Daniel Taylor, together with their friend Aaron Boston are seen sitting on the end of dock that looks out over the harbor. Aaron Boston is looking through Daniel's telescope.

AARON BOSTON

Look guys, I think I see something.

DANIEL TAYLOR

You always think you see something.

DAVID TAYLOR

Yeah, anyway let me take a look.

Aaron hands David the telescope and he takes a long look.

DAVID TAYLOR (CONT'D)

That's just Nate Smith bringing in some lobster pots. I can see how you thought it was a ship.

DAVID TAYLOR (CONT'D)

When he moves around with a lobster
pot and the sun's not right you
could mistake it for a sail boat.

DANIEL TAYLOR

Guys it's gonna be dark in less
than an hour we better get going
or our mother's gonna blow her
top. We're supposed to bring
enough water to take care of the
dishes after supper.

AARON BOSTON

I hear that a lot myself. My mom
hasn't been right in the head since
our fathers didn't come back. I
keep telling her not to give up
hope but it doesn't do much good.

DAVID BOSTON

At least your mother is looking
forward to your father coming back.
Ours is probably waiting for the
chance to yell at him because he's
been away for so long.

Daniel suddenly stands up as David and Aaron also get to
their feet. Without further ado, the three friends head
back through the town in the direction of their homes. When
they pass the general store, they are suddenly surrounded by
five other boys lead by an exceedingly large boy named
Silas Henry.

SILAS HENRY

Well if it isn't the three blind
mice, waiting for their daddies to
come home.

DANIEL TAYLOR

We're not looking for trouble
Silas. Why don't you just use your
head and let us pass.

SILAS HENRY

Why don't you use your head and
keep your damn mouth shut?

Silas knocks Daniel's hat off of his head but Daniel
ignores him and simply picks it up.

SILAS HENRY (CONT'D)

And what's up with you hanging
around with this nigger?

(MORE)

SILAS HENRY (CONT'D)

My mom says your pa must have been half a nigger himself the way he associated with the rest of those harpooners.

Daniel looks quickly at Aaron and David and when they indicate that they're ready the fight begins. Daniel steps forward and punches Silas in the stomach causing him to double over. Aaron and David go for the two boys nearest them and the fight is on in earnest. The three friends are holding their own when Mr. Smith from the general store comes out with a broom as he sends his assistant for the town constable. When the constable arrives on the scene he blows his whistle and the boys who started the fight run off.

CONSTABLE GREEN

What's going on boys? It's not like you to start trouble.

Daniel answers ignoring the cuts on his face from rolling on the ground with Silas Henry.

DANIEL TAYLOR

We didn't start the fight.

AARON BOSTON

We were just trying to walk through when they surrounded us.

David nods his head in agreement.

CONSTABLE GREEN

That Silas Henry boy is becoming a problem. That family and a lot of others haven't been right ever since the Ulysses failed to come back. You three obviously haven't given up hope. Can't say that I blame you but maybe it's time to move on.

DAVID TAYLOR

Our fathers would never give up. We're not giving up on them.

CONSTABLE GREEN

Well then best you all head for home and stay out of trouble. Anyway, Mr. Smith said the other boys started it.

The three friends continue on their way withholding comments until they are out of sight of Constable Green.

AARON BOSTON

Man...it was great the way you unloaded on that butt wipe Silas Henry.

DAVID TAYLOR

What about me? I got in a couple of good shots.

DANIEL TAYLOR

You both did fine.

EXT. THREE MONTHS LATER. A SAILING SHIP BOUND FOR NANTUCKET, BOSTON AND VARIOUS SOUTHERN PORTS IS BEING LOADED - DAY

A large wooden crate filled with coffee beans is loaded onto a nearby trading ship. All on board are unaware that mixed in with the bags of coffee beans is the one known as Joao he leers through a slit in the large crate as he views the activities taking place all around him. John Taylor makes his way over to where the first mate is seated. As he adds Taylor's name to the passenger's list he comments.

FIRST MATE

Taylor is it? Ronaldo says you're a good carpenter. We've got some long boats and a secondary mast that need looking after so I guess you'll be working your way across. Report to Robert when you get on board and he'll get you settled.

JOHN TAYLOR

Thank you sir.

John makes his way up the gang plank of the ship called "Northern Lights" still aided by his single crutch.

EXT. THE SHIP NAMED "NORTHERN LIGHTS" MAKES ITS WAY ACROSS THE ATLANTIC - DAY

Normal activities are carried out as we see John Taylor and the ship's carpenter at work making needed repairs to various long boats and fixed structures. Activities involve cutting, planing wood, nailing and applying pitch to make boats waterproof. Robert looks on approvingly as John works steadily and accurately.

EXT. ON THE DOCK LOOKING OUT ON NANTUCKET'S HARBOR - DAY

David, Daniel and Aaron are seated at the end of a dock looking out at the harbor. All are fishing using hand lines when Daniel suddenly snags a large cod fish. He hauls the fish in as David hits the fish on the head prior to placing it in a nearby bucket.

AARON BOSTON

Man, if we weren't fishing while we wait my mother would never have allowed me to come here with you guys.

DAVID TAYLOR

Same here. We haven't had a lot of money what with dad being gone so long so we've been depending on the fish and the garden.

AARON BOSTON

Tell me about it. I'm getting tired of eating cabbage.

DAVID TAYLOR

When I'm rich I'm never gonna eat that stuff again.

David looks up and yells.

DAVID TAYLOR (CONT'D)

Guys! There's a ship coming in!

AARON BOSTON

This makes 14 months to the day I had a feeling our luck was gonna turn!

DANIEL TAYLOR

Guys, I want the same things you do but let's take it one step at a time.

Several hours later the Northern Lights has made it to port from the distant horizon. It pulls up next to the dock where the boys had been sitting. The boys have relinquished their positions on the end of the dock while the ship is secured to mooring lines and cargo is transferred to nearby warehouses or taken away directly. The boys look on as a small number of passengers disembark. Just when they think all of the passengers have gotten off, John Taylor emerges from an onboard cabin. He shakes the hands of Robert and the First Mate and heads towards the gang plank where he makes his way slowly down.

DAVID AND DANIEL TAYLOR

Dad!!!

Both boys run to John Taylor and embrace him as Aaron remains on the dock with tears in his eyes realizing that his father has not returned. John, Daniel and David draw near to Aaron.

JOHN TAYLOR

Your father died saving my life. I can't replace him but from now on you're part of our family.

Tears fall from Aaron's eyes as John, David and Daniel gather around him and embrace him.

INT. NEARBY WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

Two thieves, Omri and Manasseh have broken into the warehouse where the crate containing Joao is located. Both men are carrying rough sacks and have entered in hopes of stealing whatever valuables they can find. Omri, the leader of the pair holds a crowbar in one hand and a whale oil lamp in the other. Manasseh is holding a wicked looking knife in his hand. When the pair come near the crate in which Joao is hiding he calls out to them with the sweet voice of a woman.

JOAO

Help me. Someone please help me.

Omri advances to the crate from where the voice is calling.

OMRI

You hear that Manasseh? There's a woman in this crate. I haven't had a woman in ages. Let's help her out. You can have a go after I'm finished.

MANASSEH

Sounds like a plan. Let's do it.

Both men advance to Joao's crate and quickly remove one of the sides. From the shadows Joao emerges and with a clap of his hands puts Omri and Manasseh into a sort of trance.

JOAO

My prince has chosen to bring two of his accolades to assist me. How appropriate. Both of you listen carefully. First give me your lamp.

Omri meekly passes the lamp to Joao.

JOAO (CONT'D)

Now, both of you undress and lay your clothes and shoes neatly against the wall. When you come back hear stand facing each other.

Both men quickly undress and place their clothing and shoes in two neat piles against the wall. When they return Joao nods in approval.

JOAO (CONT'D)

Good. Omri pick up your crow bar and Manasseh pick up your knife.

Both men do as they are told.

JOAO (CONT'D)

Now kill each other.

Manasseh steps forward and plunges his knife into Omri's chest. Before Omri collapses he uses all of his remaining strength to swing the crowbar he is holding to split Manasseh's head open. Both then fall lifeless to the ground. Joao smiles and walks over to the stacked piles of clothing where he dresses himself and puts on the pair of shoes that seem closest to his size. He also takes what little money he can find. Once this is accomplished, Joao puts out the lamp and slips quietly out and away from the warehouse.

INT. SIMPLE HOUSE WHICH JOHN, DAVID AND DANIEL CALL HOME - NIGHT

John is sitting at the kitchen table while he pats the head of the family dog skip. The dog's tail wags constantly as he sits next to his master. John's wife looks at him scowling.

HELEN TAYLOR

So, the sailor has returned home from the sea. We only have fish and some potatoes. You've been gone so long, the money's almost gone.

JOHN TAYLOR

I'll be working soon. In the meantime, we're lucky we have the ocean and our little garden.

HELEN TAYLOR

How are you going to work? To me you look like half a cripple.

JOHN TAYLOR

Thanks for noticing but the Portuguese doctor on Capo Verde told me that my chances for recovery were good. Besides, I'm feeling a little stronger every day.

HELEN TAYLOR

That's just talk. If you had stayed home you wouldn't have put your family in jeopardy. Half of the families who lost men on your ship have had to leave the island and move in with relatives. It's not Fair!

John remains silent and after gratefully finishing the simple meal that is placed before him he washes the dishes, followed by his face and hands. Before he closes his eyes, he calls out to his sons.

JOHN TAYLOR

Good night boys.

DANIEL TAYLOR

Good night papa.

DAVID TAYLOR

Good night papa. We're so happy you're home again.

JOHN TAYLOR

Amen.

INT. STEWART HOME - EARLY NEXT MORNING

John Rises early next morning. Noting that Helen is no longer in the bed next to him he puts on his pants and shoes grabs his crutch and once dressed, opens the front door. On unsteady legs John makes his way around the house further revealing that she is nowhere to be seen. From the front door he calls out several times.

JOHN TAYLOR

Helen! Helen!

After reentering the house, John walks over to the kitchen table next to the fire place. He looks into a cast iron Dutch oven where he sees the remains of a fish stew.

When he turns to the tiny cupboard where the family's collection of spices is stored he finds a folded piece of paper which he brings outside and walking away from the house he looks out at the sea while reading the note aloud.

JOHN TAYLOR (CONT'D)

Dear John, I've left for my sister's place in Boston. Please don't follow. I need some time away. For just a little while, I need to know what it's like to not be poor. I need to experience the excitement of the big city and meet new and interesting people. I know how resourceful you are and that you and the boys will be just fine.

John pauses as he looks out at the sea.

JOHN TAYLOR (CONT'D)

A wise Captain once said: Sooner or later every sailor has to face a patch of rough weather.

John then takes the paper, folds it and places it inside his shirt. Before reentering his home John grabs a wooden bucket and picks up a pitch fork leaning against the side of the house. In the garden next to the house, he digs up several potatoes and pulls off several leaves of cabbage. He also finds several eggs recently laid by the chickens kept in a small coop at the edge of the garden. When John is finished cooking, he wakes his sons and they enthusiastically join him at the table where their breakfast is waiting. Daniel speaks before sitting.

DANIEL TAYLOR

Papa, where's mommy?

JOHN TAYLOR

Mommy had to visit her sister in Boston.

DAVID TAYLOR

Did she say when she was coming Back?

JOHN TAYLOR

No, I guess what she's doing might take a while.

DAVID TAYLOR

That's okay. We're happy you're here.

All bow heads while John says grace.

JOHN TAYLOR

Lord we thank you for our food and
pray for anyone who doesn't have
enough to eat.

JOHN, DANIEL AND DAVID

Amen!

The boys enthusiastically eat the food which their father has prepared for them.

JOHN TAYLOR

So boys how long before school
starts?

DAVID TAYLOR

The Minister said that school would
begin in one week.

JOHN TAYLOR

That's great. Boys how would you
like to go down to the harbor and
do a little fishing?

DAVID TAYLOR

Good idea!

DANIEL TAYLOR

Yeah dad! Aaron might be there
also. He's pretty reliable.

JOHN TAYLOR

Just like his father...Boys I'll
walk down with you but you'll be on
your own for just a bit. I have to
see what I can do about getting a
job.

DAVID TAYLOR

No problem dad. We won't go
anywhere.

EXT. TOWN - DAY

John Taylor walks to the local boat yard where men are at work constructing medium sized sail boats as well as refitting whaling ships for use as cargo carriers. John, trying to look as strong as possible while making his way to the main office, is nearly knocked over by a rude elderly man, Andrew Withers, making his way out the front door.

MR. WITHERS

What can I do for you young fella?

JOHN TAYLOR

Sir, I was a harpooner on board the Ulysses. I'm not ready to go to sea just yet but I was looking to find a job as a boat builder. I built my own house and served as an assistant ship's carpenter with the Santa Isabella that just sailed in from Capo Verde.

MR. WITHERS

You're the third whaling man that's knocked on my door this morning. Ever since kerosene came on to market, the days of whaling are coming to an end. I'd like to help you but I've got all the workmen I need at the moment. Besides son boat building is hard work and you don't look too steady on your feet.

JOHN TAYLOR

A doctor told me I'd recover but it would just take some time.

MR. WITHERS

Trouble is, I can't pay you to recover. Come back when you're 100% and we'll talk.

JOHN TAYLOR

Thanks for your time.

Just before John is about to leave, he looks across the road and sees a small yard with a newly built wooden house made using clapboard construction. He can also see a pair of saw horses with a small lobster boat nearing completion. John walks over and knocks on the front door.

TOM MURPHY

Come in.

John enters the room and sees Tom Murphy seated at a desk working on a technical drawing. The walls of this main room/office are covered with drawings of a variety of different ships.

JOHN TAYLOR

Sir I noticed the construction of your house as well as the lobster boat you're working on. No short cuts, everything done right.

Mr. Murphy gets up and walks over to where John is standing.

TOM MURPHY

If you're looking for a boat,
you've come to the right place.
I've brought everything I've
learned working as a shipwright
in Bristol, England.

JOHN TAYLOR

Actually sir, I wasn't looking to
buy a boat but would like to try my
hand at building them. I built my
own house and worked as an
assistant ship's carpenter in order
to travel here from Capo Verde.

TOM MURPHY

I'd like to give you a job but at
this point, I'm what you would call
a one-man operation. I need to see
money coming in before I can let it
out.

JOHN TAYLOR

I understand, but I wouldn't need
much and you could hold off on
paying me until people started to
buy your boats.

TOM MURPHY

And what about your leg? I'm
walking around with a few pieces of
iron myself thanks to my time in
the Royal Navy.

JOHN TAYLOR

I've been getting stronger every
day. A doctor on Capo Verde was of
the opinion that I'd make a full
recovery.

TOM MURPHY

I'd like to give you a chance but
I'm not turning a profit. Things
might change down the road.

John looks around the room and sees a plane made from maple
wood that is cracked down the middle and in need of a new
handle.

JOHN TAYLOR

Give me a shot at fixing that plane
of yours It'll take a day or two
for the glue to set up. If you like
it I can wait to get payed.

(MORE)

JOHN TAYLOR (CONT'D)

My sons could even help to get you some customers. They know every lobsterman and sailor on this island.

TOM MURPHY

It wouldn't hurt to see what you can do. At the very least I get a plane out of the deal.

JOHN TAYLOR

That's all I can ask.

EXT. END OF DOCK - DAY

Daniel, David and Aaron are fishing on the end of the dock. As John walks toward the boys sees that Aaron has two large codfish in his bucket while the boys have come up empty.

DANIEL TAYLOR

Hi Papa!

DAVID TAYLOR

Papa! We had two big cod on the line but they wiggled off.

JOHN TAYLOR

Don't worry, you'll get them next time. Think about building a hand net with a long handle. That might help.

DAVID TAYLOR

We'll get on it after supper.

JOHN TAYLOR

Hey Aaron. Looks like you had the hot hand today.

AARON BOSTON

I was lucky. Your sons do better than me lots of times.

JOHN TAYLOR

Guys we've got to get going. I've got to see if I can fix this plane.

DANIEL TAYLOR

Do you think it will help you get a Job?

JOHN TAYLOR

I'm not sure but I've got to give it my best shot. Aaron if you come with us we can walk you part of the way home.

AARON BOSTON

Good idea. My mother wants me to do some weeding in the garden. I had better get to it.

The boys gather up their fishing equipment while John tucks the plane under his good arm.

EXT. ROAD THAT LEADS OUT OF TOWN - DAY

Along the way, the boys amuse themselves by throwing rocks at imaginary targets. Near the cutoff for Aaron's home they come to one tree with a cut branch. The exposed surface of the branch looks like a carefully drawn bullseye. The tree is forty yards off of the main road. The boys try to hit it but consistently miss.

DANIEL TAYLOR

I bet you could hit it dad.

JOHN TAYLOR

There is a better way though. And now is as good a time as any. When I was laid up in Africa I made something for each of you. Can any of you tell me what David used to kill Goliath?

AARON BOSTON

A sling!

DAVID TAYLOR

I was going to say that.

DANIEL TAYLOR

Me to!

JOHN TAYLOR

I'm sure any way, I made one for each of you.

John Taylor reaches into his pocket and produces three separate slings.

John Taylor

The leather piece comes from the skin of an impala while the cord is made of linen. Aaron your father and I used to sling when we were younger. We used to go down to the village dump and share some tough love with the local rat population.

I can't wait to try that!

AARON BOSTON

And how!

DANIEL TAYLOR

Some of those rats are as big as cats! What a great idea!

JOHN TAYLOR

Anyway, the idea is to use a stone that's not too heavy and not too light. Something that will fit in your palm comfortably. I picked up some stones from around the house that seem right.

From out of his pocket, John gives stone to each of the boys.

John Taylor

Now let me show you how Aaron's Father and I used to do it. Once you put your index finger through the loop, fit your rock in the pouch, then swing in a figure eight and release when your stone seems even with the target. Stay loose and pick the smallest spot you can imagine, like say the head of a pin, in the center of your target.

John faces the tree, and using a figure eight motion releases and connects with the center of the bullseye created by the loss of a major branch of the tree giving off a resounding ring.

DAVID TAYLOR

Holy Cow!

AARON BOSTON

Man!

DANIEL TAYLOR

Wowie!

DANIEL TAYLOR

I call first!

AARON BOSTON

Second!

DAVID TAYLOR

I guess I'm third. You know what they say, age before beauty.

DANIEL TAYLOR

Here goes nothing.

Daniel misses

DANIEL TAYLOR (CONT'D)

Dang it!

AARON BOSTON

Let me show you how it's done.

Aaron misses

AARON BOSTON (CONT'D)

I don't believe it!

DAVID TAYLOR

I guess we saved the best for last.

David has paid attention to the mistakes made by the other throwers and takes careful aim. Like his father he also hits the target dead center.

DAVID TAYLOR (CONT'D)

And that gentlemen, is how it is done.

Daniel and Aaron look on in disbelief, shaking their heads.

DAVID TAYLOR (CONT'D)

Yeah! If you guys need further instruction you know where to come, although I must admit my superior intellect does put both of you at a distinct disadvantage.

AARON BOSTON

Good thing this wasn't a test of strength because in that contest we'd come off looking like a couple of Samsons while you'd be compared to Delilah.

DAVID TAYLOR

That's all well and good. I'd change things right quick by waiting for you to go to sleep. Then I'd give each of you a good haircut and tell you to start sweeping the house unless you felt like getting a good ass woopin!

JOHN TAYLOR

Boys! Boys that's enough! Although (John Taylor starts to laugh hysterically) that is pretty funny.

(MORE)

JOHN TAYLOR (CONT'D)

If you guys practice every day I'm sure you'll be leaving me in the dust before you know it.

Aaron comes to the fork in the road that leads to his house and without calling attention to himself puts one of his cod fish in David's bucket while John and Daniel are walking on ahead.

AARON BOSTON

So long guys, I'll catch you tomorrow.

JOHN TAYLOR

Take care and go straight home Aaron.

The boys wave as their friend leaves.

EXT. TAYLOR HOME - DAY

After quickly preparing the fish given to them by Aaron and adding it to a quickly prepared stew, John with damaged wooden plane in hand looks over the family wood pile and picks up a thick maple branch. John brings this same stout branch of wood over to a small saw horse and chooses a straight unblemished portion. He then makes 2 light cuts using the plane as a guide. Before he starts to cut he calls out.

JOHN TAYLOR

Boys!

Both boys, who are playing with their dog run over to where John is standing.

JOHN TAYLOR (CONT'D)

Boys do me a favor and run over to Mr. Getchel's. I need you to bring me a nice straight piece of apple wood at least four inches thick and as long as your forearm. He just cut down one of the trees in his orchard so he shouldn't mind if you borrow a single branch or a log.

No sooner has he said this than the boys and their dog run in the direction of Mr. Getchel's a small house and farm located a mile east of their own home.

After a quick walk/run the boys have reached the outskirts of the Getchel farm. David comments. 28.

DAVID TAYLOR

We gotta be careful now. Everyone knows the Getchels are tight wads.

DANIEL TAYLOR

Yeah and if they catch us borrowing a piece of wood they're sure to have a meltdown. I'll look in the orchard and you look in the wood pile. Hide if someone comes out.

DAVID TAYLOR (CONT'D)

Yeah and if we know they've seen us run!

Daniel makes the hush sign as he and their dog Skip head towards the orchard while David heads towards the wood pile. The felled tree from the Orchard has already been trimmed and dragged to the back of the Getchel's house next to the wood pile. David quickly spots a perfect piece of wood under the uncut remnants of the apple tree. As he pulls the desired log from under the tree the Rooster and the rest of the chickens in the yard start to make a ruckus. David runs for all he's worth as Mr. Getchel exits his house and gives chase. While the boys head down the road he even seems to gain on them until their dog turns and runs after the pursuing man while baring his teeth. Mr. Getchel pulls up short regretting the fact that he doesn't have a stick and calls out.

MR. GETCHEL

You Taylor boys are turnin wild, pure wild! I'll talk to your father first thing in the morning!

INT. TAYLOR HOME - EVENING

The boys are heading off to bed while their father works at the kitchen table with file chisel, sand paper and folding knife. He glues his creation before the sun rises and falls asleep with his head on the table.

EXT. AFRICAN AMERICAN SECTION OF NANTUCKET ALSO KNOWN AS THE FIVE CORNERS - MORNING

Joao is seen walking towards the little settlement made up of a collection of houses and a few shops.

The most important building in the town is the African Meeting House which was funded by the Baptist Church. Aaron's mother Innes, has a small house on the town square. The house is simple but well-built with a small garden in the back along with a chicken coop and a few pigs. As Joao looks over the town he sees a small home with an even smaller house in the rear. A for rent sign hangs on a wooden post in front of the tiny dwelling. Joao promptly walks to the front door of the main house and knocks.

MRS. BRICKHOUSE

Can I help You?

JOAO

Yes ma'am. I saw that you had that little house with the sign for rent next to it. I was hoping that it might still be available.

MRS. BRICKHOUSE

It is, for two dollars a month in advance.

JOAO

Well then you wouldn't mind taking four dollars.

MRS. BRICKHOUSE

And what might you be doing to earn such a pile of money?

JOAO

In Africa you might say I was a fisherman. Times change so I made up my mind to fish these waters for a while. Who knows what I'll reel in when I cast my line?

MRS. BRICKHOUSE

Just so you understand, I don't tolerate loose living or men who are drinkers.

JOAO

I understand completely ma'am. You won't have a worry from me on those points. Not a worry at all.

MRS. BRICKHOUSE

Well alright then. Two months from now I'll be expecting the rent on the first of the month. There's only one key so mind you don't lose it.

Mrs. Brickhouse gives Joao the key but does so with a sense of foreboding.

JOAO
 You'll be paid on time and I
 don't plan on loosing the key.

Joao turns and makes his way to the tiny structure as Mrs. Brickhouse closes and locks the door to her own house.

EXT. TAYLOR HOME - ONE DAY LATER - EARLY MORNING

John Taylor stands in front of his house as his boys run out the door and head for town.

JOHN TAYLOR
 Don't be late for school now.

DAVID TAYLOR
 We won't dad!

DANIEL TAYLOR
 No way dad!

John is about to reenter the house when the family dog Skip alerts him to the fact that Mr. Getchel is heading in his direction. John immediately walks over to the wood pile and chooses two well-seasoned maple logs. As soon as Mr. Getchel enters the yard, John calls out.

JOHN TAYLOR
 Good morning Mr. Getchel. I heard what the boys did and I talked to them. It won't happen again. Please take these maple logs as a gift they're well-seasoned and will provide plenty of clean heat for your house.

Skip is quiet throughout but shows his teeth when he thinks John is not looking. Mr. Getchel is about to speak when John and Skip enter his house and close the door. Mr. Getchel thinks he's gotten a good deal so he promptly turns around and heads back to his own house.

EXT. MR. MURPHY'S BOAT BUILDING CONCERN - DAY

As John is about to knock on the front door of the house/office he notices a new sign that reads "Bristol Boat Builders". As soon as he knocks, Mr. Murphy calls out.

TOM MURPHY

Come in... Oh, there you are
young fella.

John places Mr. Murphy's damaged plane on the counter and then places his own rendition next to it. Mr. Murphy begins to carefully examine the plane made by John.

JOHN TAYLOR

I would have brought it in
yesterday but I had to wait for the
glue to set.

When Mr. Murphy finishes inspecting the plane, he takes a quick pass on a rough board that had been standing in the corner. A steady stream of wood shavings is produced on a single pass.

TOM MURPHY

I've got to admit that I'm
impressed. This is better than the
original. You even added grooves
for the fingers. Look, I can't
afford to pay you until we start to
actually sell a few boats but if
and when we do I'll give you twenty
per cent of the profits on
everything we build. I'll also show
you what I know along the way.

JOHN TAYLOR

That sounds great, thanks. Have you
got a buyer for that lobster boat?

TOM MURPHY

Not yet.

JOHN TAYLOR

Let me talk to my sons and their
friend, if someone needs a boat
they'll hear about it. What needs
to be done with that boat that's in
the saw horse?

TOM MURPHY

There are a few rough spots along
the bow and gunwales that need
sanding. After that, all she needs
is a coat of paint. I was thinking
blue for the body of boat with
bright red along the gunwales
themselves. If we keep that pattern
it'll give the boats a signature
look.

JOHN TAYLOR

When I'm done sanding let me know
if I can start painting. If you see
I'm not doing the job correctly let
me know and I'll listen. After
that we can start building another
boat or whatever you decide.

Tom Murphy nods his head in agreement.

EXT. AFRICAN MEETING HOUSE NOT FAR FROM WHERE AARON AND HIS
MOTHER LIVE - EVENING

Reverend Smith the minister who presides over the African
meeting house has finished his work and is ready to return to
his waiting wife and children. After setting his whale oil
lamp on the ground, he takes out his key and locks the front
door of the church. Just as he reaches the bottom step of the
church Joao appears from the shadows.

JOAO

Good evening Reverend Smith.

Reverend Smith is surprised by Joao's sudden appearance but
struggles to maintain his composure.

REVEREND SMITH

I don't believe I've seen you at
church before. You know my name but
I'm at a bit of a disadvantage not
knowing yours.

JOAO

My name's not important. Suffice to
say you're well known to the one I
serve. In fact, you're what I'd
call a thorn in our side what with
keeping your flock on the straight
and narrow and all.

REVEREND SMITH

I'm doing my best to be a good
shepherd.

JOAO

Maybe that's why the scripture says
the good shepherd lays down his
life for his sheep.

Without warning, Joao steps forward and plunges a long
straight knife deep in the minister's heart. He then turns
down the wick of the whale oil lamp that had been carried by
the minister and douses him with lamp's contents.

Following this, Joao takes out a match and lights fire to Reverend Smith's remains. As Joao walks quickly away a strange wind kicks up unannounced and fills the air with a kind of mourning. As the sound of mourning increases, Joao's walk turns into a run and a look of terror is seen on his face.

EXT. NANTUCKET HARBOR - THREE WEEKS LATER - DAY

Lobsterman/fisherman Morgan Healey has just finished emptying his lobster traps into a wooden box in the center of his long row boat when the storm which had been minor in the beginning turns into a true tempest. He struggles to direct his boat alongside a long mooring dock when a sudden surge causes his boat to head sideways into an outcropping of sharp rock twenty feet out from the shore. Daniel, David and Aaron had been heading home with their catch of two codfish when they notice Morgan struggling in the water. Without a second thought, the boys rush headlong into the raging waters and help Morgan to bring his boat onto the safety of the sandy beach. The boys are totally soaked but laugh at each other realizing they have been through a real-life adventure.

DAVID TAYLOR

Look at you guys. You're totally soaked.

AARON BOSTON

Look who's talking you look like a drowned rat!

David, Daniel and Aaron all laugh at their inside joke.

MORGAN HEALEY

I wish I could find some humor in all of this. My boat's got a hole big enough to walk through.

DANIEL TAYLOR

We're not laughing at you sir.
We're laughing at ourselves. We'll help you bring your boat over to the wharf.

After several trips the boys have helped to bring Morgan's catch over to the wholesaler's shop on the side of the pier. Tom gives the boys each a big lobster for their troubles.

MORGAN HEALEY

Thanks for all of your help boys.
Tomorrow I've got to see about getting myself a new boat.

DAVID TAYLOR

My dad is working at Bristol Boat Builders. I know that they've built at least two Lobster boats as of last week. Jim Dandies at that. If you drop by my dad'll make sure you get a good price; much better than Withers Boat Builders would offer and a better boat at that.

MORGAN HEALEY

I just might do that.

EXT. UNINHABITED NORTHEAST SECTION OF THE ISLAND EARLY SPRING
- EVENING

The storm which began during the day is raging as water comes down in sheets and winds blow with hurricane force. Joao stands looking at the ocean as, nearby, three disreputable men huddle nearby under a rock outcropping. Finally, Joao spots a loan merchant ship and signals to have the large wooden pyre that has been prepared set ablaze. Visibility is almost nonexistent. Several miles to the north, the lighthouse keeper has been killed and the lighthouse has been disabled. Inexorably the merchant sailing ship is drawn to the fire. The storm is such that, when the ship runs aground on the jagged rocks that lie just below the water line, its breakup is instantaneous and near total. The lucky ones, mainly the very young and the very old never make it to shore. The few that come in on their own power or on bits of wreckage are half frozen and at a point of total exhaustion. They are dispatched without being able to offer resistance. Anything of value is taken as the broken bodies are roughly handled. Joao stands in front of a wooden bucket and points.

JOAO

In the bucket now. Put all that you've found. We've got to put it in a safe place.

Finally, all that was taken fills the bucket to overflowing. Joao addresses the wild-eyed men who stand before him while his own back is to the fire that continues to roar.

JOAO (CONT'D)

Good job men one and all. Only I don't understand why each of you told me in secret that you planned on killing your partners so that you could have everything. No sense sleeping with one eye open. Best thing to do is fight it out and let the winner take all.

At this Joao snaps his fingers as the men proceed to stab each other. One man an oversized savage named "Boom Boom" is left standing while the others have already begun their journey to the place Satan calls home.

JOAO (CONT'D)

Good job Boom Boom. Looks like you're the winner. Give me a hand right quick while we give these dirt clots a nice warm send off. I'll take the arms and you take the legs. Let go when I say three.

Boom Boom and Joao take the first body and begin to swing

JOAO (CONT'D)

One.. Two... Three!

On the count of three the body is thrown into the center of the fire. The same procedure is carried out with the second body. Boom Boom has begun to sway because of a loss of blood.

JOAO (CONT'D)

Boom Boom I thank you for your assistance. Only problem is, what are we going to do about your injuries?

BOOM BOOM

I... I don't know.

JOAO

Lucky thing for you, I'm a man with a plan.

In a move that is lightning fast, Joao produces a meat cleaver and deftly removes Boom Boom's head. The rest of Boom Boom's corpse remains incredibly upright but is aided by a well-directed kick that causes it to fall forward into the roaring fire. Joao notices Boom Boom's head and deftly tosses it into the center of the raging funeral pyre. As Joao walks away from this scene of devastation, treasure bucket in hand the outline of a devil is seen in the center of the fire and demonic laughter is heard as the intensity of the fire increases.

INT. HOME OF INES BOSTON. - MORNING

Aaron has just left for school and Ines, Aaron's mother is drying the last of the breakfast dishes used by Aaron and herself. When this is done, she sits down to finish sewing a shirt that she hopes to sell at the market which is held in Nantucket's town square each and every Saturday.

Since her husband Matthew's death this has been her one source of income.. Just as she sews the final button on the unconstructed collar a knock is heard on the front door. As Ines opens the door, she sees that it is Mrs. Smith, Pastor Smith's widow.

INES BOSTON

Mrs. Smith, what a pleasure to see you. Come in and have a seat while I make you a cup of tea.

When Ines brings the tea over along with a slice of raisin cake she notes that Mrs. Smith has been crying. She puts her hand on Mrs. Smith's shoulder.

INES BOSTON (CONT'D)

Lord, Mrs. Smith why are you crying?

MRS. SMITH/ABIGAIL

You can me Abigail.

INES BOSTON

Alright then, Abigail. What's going on?

MRS. SMITH

Since my husband, Pastor Smith, was taken from me I haven't had any income. I know how smart you are so I thought I'd ask you what you think I should do.

INES BOSTON

You own your house don't you?

MRS. SMITH

Yes.

INES BOSTON

And you've got a fairly big yard out back?

MRS. SMITH

Yes.

INES BOSTON

Well then seeing that it's Spring I'd suggest you plant yourself a garden. You've got four big strong sons who can help you.

MRS. SMITH

But they're not used to that sort of work. They were planning on going into the ministry, following in their father's footsteps.

INES BOSTON

Well, before they make tracks in that direction which is a noble ambition, I suggest they get used to putting food on the table. I haven't exactly been walking in tall cotton since my husband was killed by pirates but I know enough to take care of the basics. I can let you have some seed to get you started and I can even let you have two of my laying hens. Your boys will have to build a little coup for them and a fence around the yard to keep the fox out. It'll take time but you'll make out.

Suddenly and without warning Mrs. Smith gets up and her eyes change from a look of warmth to demonic possession.

MRS. SMITH

And I thought you were a friend. You ask my boys to do labor that's beneath them and dishonor their father's good name. You're nothing but a Jezebel. So high and mighty. I've seen you smiling when all of the men at church look at you. I'm sorry I came here!

INES BOSTON

Well, I'm sorry too. Maybe it's best if you leave.

Mrs. Smith gets up so suddenly that she causes the plate that held her piece of cake to fall to the floor and break. She ignores this as she storms out of the house. After Ines sweeps up the mess, she sits down to resume her sewing while commenting.

INES BOSTON (CONT'D)

Lord give me strength.

EXT. MORNING OUTSIDE OF THE TAYLOR HOME - CONTINUOUS

John, David and Daniel head for work and school together. John is much improved and is gradually becoming less dependent upon the crutch which he uses intermittently.

DAVID BOSTON

Dad don't forget to tell Mr. Murphy about Morgan Healey stopping by.

DANIEL TAYLOR

Yeah dad if he offers him a fair price I'm sure you guys will make a sale.

JOHN TAYLOR

Let's hope. I'm going to be praying.

DANIEL TAYLOR

We will too.

DAVID TAYLOR

For sure.

In the distance we can see the boys stopping from time to time as they pick up a stone and attempt to hit various targets with their slings.

EXT. BRISTOL BOAT YARD - AFTERNOON

Morgan Healey sees the sign hanging on post near the front of Bristol Boat's office. He Knocks and Mr. Murphy quickly gets up, answering the door.

MR. MURPHY

Come on in sir. Can I help you?

Morgan looks around the office and is impressed with all of the framed pictures of sailing ships that line the walls.

MORGAN HEALEY

I was looking in your yard and noticed that you had two lobster boats.

MR. MURPHY

Yes sir, both newly built of seasoned oak and triple sealed against the elements.

(MORE)

MR. MURPHY (CONT'D)

The paint is my own concoction and I believe it will stand up to salt water as well as anything in current use.

MORGAN HEALEY

This place is new. Have you been boat building before?

MR. MURPHY

Oh yes. 20 years as a ship wright in Bristol, England and six years as a ship's carpenter in the Royal Navy. I've got a young fellow working me, name of John Stewart a real natural who gives one hundred percent every day he comes to work.

MORGAN HEALEY

It was John's boys who directed me here. You guys came well recommended.

MR. MURPHY

Glad to hear it. Why don't we take a look?

Mr. Murphy grabs his hat from a hook on the wall and both men walk over to the set of newly built boats. John is busy on a third, steaming several planks so that they bend to fit the forward curve of the bow. John waves to Morgan when he sees him. Morgan Healey speaks aside to Mr. Murphy.

MORGAN HEALEY

That man of yours is one of the finest harpooners to ever come out of this town.

MR. MURPHY

Doesn't surprise me. He's all business when it comes to work.

Morgan runs his hand along the top rail of the boat and gets on his back to look underneath.

MORGAN HEALEY

She's a fine boat. How much would you be asking?

MR. MURPHY

Twenty-four dollars.

MORGAN HEALEY

Withers is asking twenty-three.

MR. MURPHY

True enough but short of damage, we guarantee our boats for a year against leaks or cracks. Besides that, nothing gets out of the yard that isn't perfect..

MORGAN HEALEY

Twenty four's a bit rich for my blood. Make it twenty-three and it's a deal.

MR. MURPHY

You drive a hard bargain. Twenty-three it is then.

Both men shake hands.

MR. MURPHY (CONT'D)

Come in the office and I'll write you up a bill of sale. Can I offer you a cup of tea?

MORGAN HEALEY

Yes thanks. Very kind of you.

MR. MURPHY

I'll have a talk with Lester Wilkins. We should be able to flatbed your boat down to the dock by ten in the morning.

MORGAN HEALEY

If I come early do you think Lester would let me ride along?

MR. MURPHY

Lester's reasonable. No problem at all.

When Morgan departs, Mr. Murphy walks over to John and presents him with twenty percent of the boat sale. It is the first money to come his way for almost a year and a half. He has to struggle to keep himself under control.

JOHN TAYLOR

Thank you sir.

MR. MURPHY

This is just the start. I think God was looking out for us the day you came knocking on my door.

John is crying as Mr. Murphy puts his hand on his shoulder.

JOHN TAYLOR
I better keep going with this
project.

MR. MURPHY
Just give a holler if you need a
hand.

JOHN TAYLOR
Yes sir.

EXT. MRS. SMITH'S HOME LOCATED ON THE EDGE OF TOWN - DAY

Joao has been waiting since early in the morning until the children of Mrs. Smith, the widow of the recently departed minister have left for school. He walks up to the door and knocks briskly. Mrs. Smith opens the door.

MRS. SMITH

Hello.

JOAO
Good morning ma'am. My names Joao,
Joao Silva. I heard about the
Reverend's passing and I just came
to pay my condolences. I met your
husband at a revival in upstate
New York and he made quite an
impression on me as a fellow
fisher for souls.

MRS. SMITH
Well thank you for your kind
words, most gratifying.

JOAO
I'll be going on my way ma'am
knowing how busy a schedule a
lady of your stature must have.

Joao starts to leave when Mrs. Smith suddenly calls out.

MRS. SMITH
Now hold on Mr. Silva. It would be
uncivilized of me if I didn't at
least off a cup of tea to a friend
of my dear departed husband. I'll
have something for you in a jiffy.

Joao smiles to himself and with hat in hand enters the door that Mrs. Smith holds open for him.

EXT. HOME OF INES BOSTON - DAY

The local postman pulls up in front of Ines Boston's home with a horse drawn covered delivery wagon.

POSTMAN

Wo there princess.

The horse pulling the postal wagon readily pauses to graze on the grass and dandelions that are growing on the side of the road in front of Ines's home. The postman applies the hand break to the wagon and walks to the back of the wagon where he pulls out a medium sized heavy crate. After making his way up the front stairs he is greeted by Ines. A young girl named Lisa who has been sewing with Ines also comes to the door.

INES BOSTON

Good morning.

POSTMAN

Morning ma'am I've got a delivery for you. It's a bit heavy so, where would you like it?

INES BOSTON

Yes! I've been waiting for this! If you brought it in and placed it on the kitchen table I would greatly appreciate it.

POSTMAN

My pleasure.

The postman brings the crate in and places it on Ines's kitchen table. She quickly cuts a piece of raisin cake for him and after folding it in wax paper hands it to him.

INES BOSTON

Just a little something for your trouble.

POSTMAN

Thank you ma'am have a wonderful day.

Postman exits. Ines pulls a claw hammer from out of a nearby drawer and begins to work on lifting the nails that hold the crate together.

INES BOSTON

Lisa, today something special has arrived.

LISA
It isn't one of those new clothes
washers is it?

Ines continues to open the crate as Lisa tries to guess what
it contains.

INES BOSTON
No..Guess again.

LISA
Is it a cook set with a Dutch oven?

INES BOSTO
Good guess but no.

LISA
I give up. What is it?

Ines finally lifts the last nail causing the sides of the
crate to fall. With a flourish, she removes the packing
paper.

INES BOSTON
Ta da! It's a sewing machine!

LISA
I've heard about these things but
this is the first I've seen of
them.

INES
I've got to thank my father and
mother for the little bit of money
they left me when they passed or I
never would have been able to buy
such a wonder. As soon I learn how
to use it I'll show you. We should
be able to make a shirt in no time
with one of these machines. I've
got the thread, buttons and bolts
of cloth ready to go so let's see
what happens.

INT. AFRICAN MEETING HOUSE -SUNDAY SERVICE - DAY

A short time later, Joao Silva and Mrs. Smith are now
man and wife. The congregation has also chosen Joao to
be their Minister. Joao speaks from the pulpit.

JOAO

I want to thank all of you for coming today and let you know how honored I am to be asked to be your new pastor. I know there were some of you who did not approve of my selections by your elders but I want you all to know that I bear no ill will against any of you. No brothers and sisters I am here to bring you a gospel of hope. I bring you a gospel of prosperity for the Lord has said that if you had the faith of a mustard seed you could tell that mountain to move (with anger) and it would move. If I did not believe the prosperity that I have been able to share with my wife Abigail and my four step sons was not be possible for all of you I would not be sharing this message with you today.

A look at the church pews reveals that the former Mrs. Smith, now Abigail Silva as well as all four of her sons are well dressed.

JOAO (CONT'D)

I want all of you to have what I have. If you or I have to shake a tree to make those golden apples fall to the ground then by all means I say shake that tree!

Half of the congregation goes wild eyed with excitement as shouts of "Amen!" and "Yes Lord!" are heard. Ines Boston, Mrs. Brickhouse and the remaining half of the congregation shake their heads knowing that there is something wrong with what is being said.

EXT. SMALL ONE ROOM HOUSE FORMERLY OCCUPIED BY JOAO - DAY.

Mrs. Brickhouse is looking for her cat "Maisy" when she hears her cat crying out from within the small structure formerly occupied by Joao prior to his marriage to Mrs. Smith. Mrs. Brickhouse examines the structure and can see that one of the window panes has loosened and fallen to the ground giving the cat one-way access to the structure. She takes a key from her apron and pushes the door open. Once the door opens creakily on its rusting hinges she picks up her cat who is obviously upset.

MRS. BRICKHOUSE

Maisy you're going to be the death of me running off and getting stuck in tight spaces. If I hadn't come along I don't.....

Mrs. Brickhouse stops speaking in mid-sentence as she sees all sorts of odd things such as parts of dead animals a drying scalp and a bucket full of different coins and men's and women's jewelry. Some of the rings are still attached to their owner's fingers which were obviously cut without much care. Mrs. Brickhouse is in shock at what she sees.

MRS. BRICKHOUSE (CONT'D)

Good Lord. All of this could only have come from that ship that went down during the storm. Those poor people. Seeing all these evil forbidden things, that man Joao must be in league with the devil.

As Mrs. Brickhouse turns from the horrors on display in the tiny structure a shock wave runs through her. Joao is standing in the doorway.

JOAO

Oh, ma'am you picked a bad time to be a busy buddy snooping about and looking at things that were none of your business. As for my being in league with the devil, I prefer to say that we have more of a father and son sort of relationship. Ah well, none of this would be taking place if it wasn't for this mischievous cat Maisy.

Joao takes the cat from the terrified woman standing in front of him and seems to want to pet her but then smoothly lays hold of her neck and back legs. He gives her head a sudden twist and drops the now dead cat to the floor. At the sight of this, Mrs. Brickhouse's heart gives out and she falls lifeless to the floor. Joao then takes his bucket of treasure from the shelf. In another bucket, he hides a number of potions and ingredients associated with Satanic rites. He also picks up the dead cat and uses his foot to force it into the same bucket. He then covers the top of each bucket with a separate rag and leaves them outside the front door. Before leaving, Joao takes the glass funnel off of a table lamp and pours the whale oil along the side of the nearest wall and lights the flammable substance with a wooden match. By the time Joao rounds the corner the tiny structure has been turned into a blazing inferno.

EXT. BRISTOL BOAT YARD - DAY

Two weeks later early on a Saturday morning John and Mr. Murphy are busy setting the keel for a new lobster boat. Two other boats are constructed and ready for painting. Daniel, David and Aaron are busy sanding away any rough spots on the gunwales, seats or inner structures of the new boats. John's crutch is nowhere in sight due to the fact that his leg has finally healed.

MR. MURPHY

This will be the fourth boat we'll sell in as many weeks.

JOHN TAYLOR

Thank God, we've been fortunate. Some of the lobstermen needed to replace their boats following the storm and some were just plain jealous when they saw Morgan Healey's rig.

MR. MURPHY

I agree completely. Only problem is that Nantucket folks can only buy so many boats. I think it's s time for us to bring a boat or two over to Martha's Vineyard.

JOHN TAYLOR

That sounds like a great idea. My friend Tryal Sippicant's people the Wampanoag Indians live on the end of the island. Also, I went to school with a boy named James Rutledge who owns a dry goods store on the island. Maybe he would be interested in trying to sell one or two of our boats if we gave him a broker's fee? I'll get a letter off to him tonight and we'll see if he's interested.

MR. MURPHY

Good thinking! The boys should be finished sanding number two in about an hour. We might want to switch horses for a bit and lay down some paint.

JOHN TAYLOR.

Sounds like a plan. The weather's due to turn mid-week so we might as well take advantage of the sun while we have it. If it looks like rain we can transfer the boats to the main shed if needed.

EXT. - LOCAL TOWN MARKET - CONTINUOUS

Ines and Lisa have set up in their usual vendor's space in the town square. They have one shirt left for sale. They are approached by a sailor who sees that the shirt will fit.

SAILOR

Afternoon ma'am. How much are you asking for this shirt?

INES BOSTON

The shirt sells for thirty five cents.

SAILOR

Wow that's a lot of money! Most places sell for twenty cents tops.

INES BOSTON

The shirt costs what it does because nothing else on the market can compare. All seems are double stitched. The buttons are guaranteed to not come undone and if the shirt fails because of a manufacturing defect we will repair it free of charge. In addition, every shirt is pre washed and pressed before we sell it so you never have to worry about it shrinking.

SAILOR

Ma'am you're some saleswoman. I'll take it.

The sailor pays Ines while Lisa expertly folds the shirt and wraps and seals it in heavy duty packing paper.

INES BOSTON

Have a wonderful day.

SAILOR

You too ma'am. Thanks.

LISA

Ma'am, what are you going to do with all this money?

INES BOSTON

After I give you your twenty percent of the profits, I need to order some new needles, cloth, buttons and thread. I might even splurge for a new breed sow. Aaron is growing like a weed and I have to make sure I can feed him.

LISA

That's good thinking.

EXT. BRISTOL BOAT YARD - DAY

The wind has picked up considerably and the sky is turning gray.

MR. MURPHY

John, you sure called this storm right. If we hadn't transferred those boats into the work shed for painting two days ago, we'd have been in for a real shellacing.

JOHN TAYLOR

I'll give credit to the Man Upstairs. I'm just not that smart.

MR. MURPHY

Well I had best be getting along myself. Mrs. Murphy will blow her top if I'm not on time for supper.

JOHN TAYLOR

I understand. Tomorrow.

John leaves the yard and walks briskly through the town square. As he passes the Constable's Office, the constable steps out and motions to John to come towards him. John promptly walks over.

CONSTABLE GREEN

A quick word John.

JOHN TAYLOR

Sure Constable. What can I do for you?

CONSTABLE GREEN

John I think you're aware that things have been going awry on the island for over three months now. Killings here in town, the Five Corners and maybe worst of all the fact that wreckers were probably behind the destruction of the schooner that went down in the early Spring. Lou Walters, the old lighthouse keeper on the North Point left behind a wife and three children.... Point Is, I think this storm is right for the wreckers to try again. My deputy's down with a fever and I know you're a steady guy in more ways than one.

JOHN TAYLOR

Okay I just have to tell my boys where I'll be. I don't want them to worry.

CONSTABLE GREEN

No problem. I'll be by in about an hour. We need to be set up ahead of time if we're going to stop these guys.

JOHN TAYLOR

I'll be ready.

INT. TAYLOR HOME - NIGHT

John is finishing up with the dishes while the boys are sitting at the kitchen table doing their homework.

DANIEL Taylor

Dad are you sure we can't come with you.

JOHN TAYLOR

Normally I wouldn't shut you out of anything but this could be dangerous. When I leave just lock the door and stay put. Skip has been on his walk so he should be okay. At the sound of his name Skip barks and wags his tail. Suddenly there's a knock on the door as John grabs his hat and a short harpoon that been resting near the exit.

JOHN TAYLOR (CONT'D)

And remember stay put!

John closes the door and begins a quick walk to the northend of the island with Constable Green. Daniel looks through the window and as soon as he sees Constable Green and their father clear the nearby hill he turns.

DANIEL TAYLOR

They're over the hill.

DAVID TAYLOR

Let's go!

Both boys exit their house while keeping Skip on a leash to keep him under control.

CONSTABLE GREEN

You brought a harpoon with you?

JOHN TAYLOR

It's what I'm used to and won't malfunction just because it's raining. Besides, with the rope attached, nothing I hit is going to get away.

CONSTABLE GREEN

Good enough.

As Constable Green and John walk along, the rain and wind increase to the point that they are in the middle of a raging storm. John, who is used to high seas, keeps the Constable on a steady track. Skip in the meantime helps to keep the boys from getting lost as they follow just out of sight.

EXT. BASE OF LIGHTHOUSE NORTH TIP OF ISLAND - NIGHT

The light from the light house is extinguished while the light house keeper lies senseless on the floor after receiving a blow to the back of his head. As before a large pile of wood that has been doused with whale oil is stacked and readied. The stone outcropping above the wood pile keeps it from getting soaked As Joao looks out across the ocean he sees the lights of a schooner struggling to make its way through the storm. The three wicked Disciples who gaze upon Joao grimace with demonic excitement as he picks up a smoking torch and sets fire to the large pile of wood. In the meantime, Constable Green and John hug the walls of the stone cliff as they draw closer to the wreckers and their deadly fire. The boys see this as Daniel whispers:

DANIEL TAYLOR

Let's work our way to the top of the cliff that looks over the beach. That way we can give a warning and act as a backup if needed.

DAVID TAYLOR

And let's pick up some good slinging stones along the way if we can find some.

DANIEL TAYLOR

Good idea.

Both boys and scout move off trail and head for the top of the cliff as quickly and quietly as they can. In the meantime, Constable Green and John Taylor move steadily but quietly against the base of the cliff. When they are close enough, Constable Green points his pistol and shouts.

CONSTABLE GREEN

Stand where you are or I'll shoot!

All three of Joao's disciples ignore the loaded pistol and with machetes drawn rush in the direction of John Taylor and the Constable. The constable is forced to empty his revolver into the two nearest attackers in order to stop them while John waits and skewers the third attacker through the stomach. In the meantime, Joao has remained hidden from John and the Constable and is about to launch an unseen attack. The boys let loose with their slings as Daniel's stone catches Joao squarely in the center of his back while David's hits directly on the elbow of his right hand. The bones joining at the elbow are fractured causing him to drop his machete. He howls in pain as he runs into the darkness.

DAVID TAYLOR

Dad!!! We got Him.

CONSTABLE GREEN

Your sons?

JOHN TAYLOR

I told them to stay put but they might have just saved us.

CONSTABLE GREEN

Boys! Come down here!

JOHN TAYLOR

And be careful! Walk back to where you started and move slow.

DANIEL TAYLOR

Okay dad!

Scout barks in agreement as they retrace their steps. In the meantime, John pulls the harpoon out of his attackers stomach as he kicks his machete out of arm's reach and places his boot on the man's chest in order to gain more leverage. To his amazement the creature which has a face like someone's worst nightmare rolls in the direction of the fire and jumps into the center. The fire increases in intensity as it welcomes Joao's disciple. Following this Constable Green and John begin to throw sand on the fire and use long pieces of driftwood to break up the pile in order to keep from drawing the hapless schooner in upon the jagged rocks that lie just below the surface. The boys arrive and help put the fire out

CONSTABLE GREEN

You guys wait here while I try to get the light house restarted. That ship's still in trouble.

JOHN TAYLOR

Will do! And be careful!

When the most of the fire is out. The boys rush in and hug their father.

JOHN TAYLOR (CONT'D

I thought I told you guys to stay home!

DAVID TAYLOR

We're sorry we disobeyed but if we weren't here that monster might have killed you.

DANIEL TAYLOR

Aaron, David and myself have been practicing with the slings ever since you gave them to us. I nailed him with a rock dead center in the middle of his back.

DAVID TAYLOR

The rock from my sling probably cracked his elbow. It made him drop his machete. Dad please forgive us. You were away for so long we almost gave up hope before. We're not going to lose you again!

DANIEL TAYLOR

Not ever!

The boys rush in and hug him again as Skip waves his tail and demands to be patted. Tears run down John's face throughout. In a while the boys look and see that Constable Green has been able to restart the light house beacon as the schooner steers away from certain destruction.

EXT. WOODS OUTSIDE OF THE FIVE CORNERS - NIGHT

A week later, Joao with, his arm in a sling kneels before a fire set in a hidden clearing. He mumbles a few incantations and then throws Mrs. Brickhouse's cat into the center of the flames. The fire suddenly doubles in intensity as the outline of Satan appears.

JOAO

Master!

SATAN

You call me master yet once again
you have failed me!

JOAO

Have mercy! This has never happened
before It is as if they have help
from the Creator.

SATAN

Never mention his name in my
presence again! I would be like the
most high God! I would be
worshiped!

JOAO

I worship you and you alone! You
are my master! Please one more
chance!

SATAN

This is your last chance! I have
spoken!

The flames now reach up to the height of the surrounding trees as Joao runs away screaming in terror.

NANTUCKET HARBOR TOWN DOCK - TWO WEEKS LATER - DAY

John and Mr. Murphy look on as two of their lobster boats are loaded aboard the Mail Schooner headed for Martha's Vineyard.

JOHN TAYLOR

I should be back in three days. James said he'd meet me at the dock with a flat bed and a team of horses. I've got to admit that this is all pretty exciting.

MR. MURPHY

I'll keep you in my prayers while you're away. It's funny but my wife, Katherine is looking forward to having the boys stay with us for three whole days. We never had children of our own so I'm feeling like a little kid myself.

JOHN TAYLOR

Thanks for putting so much faith in me. I'll do my best to do you proud.

MR. MURPHY

I'm sure you will.

The First Mate on board the mail schooner blows a whistle signaling departure so John steps lively as he grabs his small overnight bag and boards the sturdy ship before the gang plank is removed and mooring lines are untied.

EXT. MARTHA'S VINEYAR MAIN DOCK - DAY

As the boat pulls into the dock John looks out and can see James Rutledge and his flatbed pulled by a team of strong looking horses. As soon as the passengers clear the dock, James expertly backs the flatbed in as close as possible to the ship. It is obvious that James has done this before and readily makes any adjustments directed by the first mate. When the boats are lowered onto the flat by the ship's crane, John readily assists James with tying them down and making them secure. As James takes the reins he pats John on the back and is obviously happy to see him.

JAMES RUTLEDGE

It's got to be over twenty years since we were in school together.

JOHN TAYLOR

At least. The time goes fast.

JAMES RUTLEDGE

I was shocked when I heard that your ship went down. Pirates no less.

(MORE)

JAMES RUTLEDGE (CONT'D)
 Funny thing is, I told my wife Elizabeth that if anyone could make it back alive you would. You might not have been the biggest boy in school but all the bullies knew enough to give you a wide birth.

JOHN TAYLOR
 You did alright yourself.

JAMES RUTLEDGE
 I'm not so sure but thanks for the vote of confidence. ...Your boats are as nice as any I've seen. I was thinking a fifteen percent commission for every one I sell.

JOHN TAYLOR
 Mr. Murphy told me that was what he had in mind as well.

JAMES RUTLEDGE
 With your one year guarantee and the quality of your build I think I can get top dollar. The summer folk who are trying to get their families clear of the consumption that rocking Boston and New York have deep pockets and should make for a steady supply of customers.

JOHN TAYLOR
 We can only hope.

EXT. JAMES RUTLEDGE HOUSE - NEXT DAY

James, wife Elizabeth, their daughters Lucy and Beth are standing in front of their home before their day begins.

ELIZABETH
 Do you think you'll be back from the Wampanoag's in time for supper?

JOHN TAYLOR
 I know my shipmate Tryal's family so they'll probably want me to stay over. For sure I'll be back in time to catch the mail schooner back to Nantucket two days from now.

LUCY
 Thank you for telling us all those stories about pirates and whales.

BETH

Yeah most adults tell us to play in a corner but you're not like that. We love you.

John answers as his voice breaks and he addresses the family.

JOHN TAYLOR

If you guys ever get the urge to visit Nantucket you're welcome to stay at my house any time. My boys love having visitors and telling jokes. Well I better be off.

JAMES RUTLEDGE

Me to, I've got a business to run and a couple of new boats to sell.

Both men leave the Rutledge home as James heads right towards his dry goods store while John heads west in the direction of the Wampanoag village.

EXT. OUTSKIRTS OF WAMPANOAG VILLAGE - DAY

By afternoon, John has reached the home of fellow harpooner Tryal Sippican. The village still has a collection of traditional rounded structures with a large central lodge as well as modern houses. Tryal's house is a modern two room structure much like John Taylor's own home. John walks up to the sturdy structure and knocks. Tryal's wife Martha comes to the door and upon seeing who it is immediately calls out.

MARTHA SIPPICAN

Eve! Tryal! Come quick it's daddy's friend John Taylor.

Both children rush to the front door and upon seeing John take him by the hand and pull him into the house.

EVE SIPPICAN

Mommy can we give John some tea?

MARTHA SIPPICAN

Of course, have a seat. I was going to offer.

TRYAL SIPPICAN JR.

Mommy can I tell grandfather? Everyone is going to want to hear.

MARTHA

Of course.

Martha puts the kettle on to heat over the pot belly kitchen stove and quickly produces a plate of ham bread and cheese for John to eat.

MARTHA SIPPICAN

This is just a start to take the edge of.

John is starving after his long walk and after saying a silent prayer readily begins to eat.

JOHN TAYLOR

Thanks. This is wonderful.

MARTHA SIPPICAN

The tribe will bring you hot food later. Tryal's father is chief and he'll want everyone to hear what happened.

JOHN TAYLOR

I understand.

MARTHA SIPPICAN

We don't treat everyone like this. With you, it's different. Everyone here considers you part of the tribe.

At this Eve pull her chair even closer to John who blushes at all of the attention he is getting.

JOHN TAYLOR

I'm lucky that my dad and Tryal's father were shipmates. I think they lived through a couple of pirate attacks themselves. The summers I spent here were the best. I don't think I would have become a harpooner if Tryal and his father didn't train me.

MARTHA SIPPICAN

Give yourself credit. Tryal always said you were a natural.

JOHN TAYLOR

So how have you been doing?

MARTHA SIPPICAN

Not easy but the tribe sticks together.

(MORE)

MARTHA SIPPICAN (CONT'D)

With all of the people coming in for the revival meetings I bake bread and cookies. Most weekends I sell out. And you?

JOHN TAYLOR

Not so well at first but now, I'm working for a boat builder. I'm trying to pay attention and learn the ropes. It's not easy but things are starting to pick up.

At this Tryal runs breathless into the house.

TRYAL SIPPICAN JR.

Grandfather says come to the lodge. He says everyone is waiting.

JOHN TAYLOR

This was wonderful thanks. I better get over to the lodge.

MARTHA SIPPICAN

Don't worry, we're all going.

Martha gets a blanket and a shawl for herself and Eve. Martha her children and John all head over to the lodge. John enters the lodge after Martha and her children. He is in shock when he sees that the entire village has gathered. The chief points to a place beside him and motions for John To sit.

CHIEF/TRYAL'S FATHER

John welcome. For those of you who are too young to remember John's father and I were shipmates and friends not only that we also faced death together. My son Tryal counted John as a friend and so do I. Now he will tell you how Tryal died so that we can remember him with honor and never forget.

John recants the basics of the pirate attack off of the coast of Portuguese Guinea plus adds the following details.

JOHN TAYLOR

When the pirates hit our ship Tryal was the only person who didn't go into shock. He immediately took action without regard to his own safety. At a distance of over fifty yards he harpooned two of these devils and gave a couple of us a chance to fight on for a while.

(MORE)

JOHN TAYLOR (CONT'D)

He was brought down by rifle shot from a coward who would never have been able to face him alone. Matthew Boston and I were hit with a grenade as the magazine on the pirate ship exploded taking everyone else down. I was knocked out and my leg was messed up but Matthew got me in a boat and rowed us to shore. Because of his injuries, Matthew passed when we landed. A Portuguese missionary priest and some really good local people gave me a chance to recover. I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for the bravery of my two friends and the pirates might have succeeded if it wasn't for Tryal.

CHIEF/TRYAL'S FATHER

Thank you John. We never would have known all this if you had not taken the time to share. You have brought good medicine to share with us. All here bow your heads for Tryal. All here give a war cry for his undying bravery.

ALL TOGETHER

All including John yell with ear piercing loudness.

After this warm food and delicacies are brought and a feast is held. At the end the chief tells John:

CHIEF/TRYAL'S FATHER

Tonight, you sleep in my dwelling next to my family the way you did when you and Tryal were young boys.

John is speechless at the hospitality of his friends and humbly nods his head in agreement. When he lays down in the place that has been prepared for him, he falls asleep immediately.

EXT. CHIEF'S DWELLING - DAY

As morning arrives, John steps outside and stretches noting that most of the village is already awake. The Chief brings John to the dwelling of the Medicine Man.

EXT. MEDICINE MAN'S DWELLING - LOCATED A THE EDGE OF THE VILLAGE - DAY

The medicine man's dwelling is full of smoke. As John and the Chief approach, they can hear the sounds of chanting. When they reach the entrance, the chanting stops and the medicine man steps out. He looks as though he has gotten little sleep. As he looks at the Chief, the Chief nods in approval.

MEDICINE MAN

John, an evil has come to your island. We heard about the ship that was lost but this is not the end. You and the ones close to you have been chosen to fight.

Suddenly the sky that had been blue turns grey as fierce winds begin to turn into a near hurricane force gale. The Medicine Man strains to make his voice heard.

MEDICINE MAN (CONT'D)

We are not yet sure when the battle will begin but when the time comes we will do what we can to help. We do this because you are our brother and because we know that if our hearts fail us and we do not stand, we too will be destroyed.

The chief then hands John a present wrapped in rabbit skin.

CHIEF

We do not want to embarrass you so open it when you are away from us. Keep it with you always. Best go now while you can.

JOHN TAYLOR

I will. Thank you.

John grabs his bag and heads back to where he began. Once he is out of sight of the village the winds stop and the sky turns blue once more. After several hours, he stops under the shade of a large tree to obtain respite from the noon day sun and to drink some water. It is then that he remembers the medicine man's gift. John loosens the buckle of his simple bag and kneeling, takes out the fur wrapped gift. As he unfolds it he is shocked to see a knife plus an expertly crafted double stitched sheath. The blade is at least four inches long with a full tang deer horn handle. The knife is well balanced with a tapered point. He shaves some of the hairs on his arms and comments:

JOHN TAYLOR (CONT'D)

As sharp as a razor!

The sheath is also attached to a thick leather thong. John is amazed at the thought behind the gift and immediately ties it around his neck. Once it is adjusted John comments:

JOHN TAYLOR (CONT'D)

From now on, I guess you go where I go.

EXT. NANTUCKET HARBOR TOWN DOCK - DAY

As the mail schooner lowers the gang plank for the passengers to disembark, John sees Daniel and David as well as Mr. and Mrs. Murphy.

DAVID TAYLOR

Dad, here we are!

Both David and Daniel give John a hug as he walks over Skip wags his tail and barks till John pats him. John speaks to Mr. And Mrs. Murphy

JOHN TAYLOR

Thank you for taking care of the boys while I was away. I hope they behaved.

DANIEL TAYLOR

Dad! What do think? Mrs. Murphy is a great cook. We had apple pie and pot roast and everything it was great!

DAVID TAYLOR

And at night, Mr. Murphy told us stories and taught us how to play chess. We couldn't beat him but it was still fun.

MRS. MURPHY

You have great sons. You're so lucky.

JOHN TAYLOR

They're my treasures. That's for sure.

MR. MURPHY

And remember, no work tomorrow.
It's the Fourth of July weekend so
enjoy. Quick aside was Mr. Rutledge
happy with the boats?

JOHN TAYLOR

And how. I think things are going
to work out great. Fifteen percent
just like you predicted.

Mr. Murphy gives him a thumbs up.

MRS. MURPHY

Any sales trips in the future, the
boys and Skip will always have a
place to stay.

JOHN TAYLOR

Thanks. Well we better be off.
It'll be dark by the time we get
home.

MR. MURPHY

Good point. We'll see you Monday
then.

JOHN TAYLOR

Bright and early.

EXT. SATURDAY MARKET CENTER OF TOWN - DAY

The town square is packed with people. In addition to the local townspeople, the many visitors from the mainland who are anxious to enjoy themselves are also busy visiting the various stands where people are selling cooked food, baked goods and clothing items. Aaron is helping his mother Ines and her apprentice Lisa as they have appeared with 7 new shirts of varying sizes. Lisa has also baked a sheet of cookies. She notices Aaron staring at the collection of baked gems. Aaron pretends to reach for one but is stopped as Lisa brings a ruler down on the back of his hand. Aaron laughs uncontrollably.

AARON BOSTON

Hey!!! I'm just kidding.

John and the boys as well as Skip arrive at the market where, upon seeing Ines and Aaron, they stop by to Sayhello.

JOHN TAYLOR

There they are! Don't tell me, is this man the famous harpooner everyone's talking about?!?

AARON BOSTON

I don't want to brag but the other day I did nail a killer whale from my front porch. It was only a mile away so I didn't have to stretch too much to hit the mark.

DAVID TAYLOR

Hey! You stole my line.

DANIEL TAYLOR

If we're talking facts, you know I was the first one to think up that story.

The boys huddle next to Aaron whispering

AARON BOSTON

Hi Mr. Taylor

JOHN TAYLOR

Hey Aaron.

AARON BOSTON

Ma, can I hang out with the guys for a while. We want to look and see if someone's selling a sword.

INES BOSTON

I guess, but stay out of trouble and report back every hour or so.

AARON BOSTON

I will.

At this the boys take off running.

JOHN TAYLOR

Who's this lovely helper of yours?

INES BOSTON

This is Lisa. She helps me sew.

John extends his hand and Lisa shakes it.

JOHN TAYLOR

Pleased to meet you Lisa.

Lisa blushes and Skip draws next to her demanding to be patted.

LISA

Same here...Ma'am do you think I could walk around a bit? The market looks interesting this morning.

INES BOSTON

Why not. Just come back after you take the tour.

LISA

I will ma'am. Nice to meet you sir.

Lisa then runs off following after the boys. John then looks at the shirts that are on display.

JOHN TAYLOR

These shirts are nice. It must have taken you weeks to sew this many.

LISA

Just a week. I have one of those new sewing machines, even has a foot pedal. John I want to thank you for being so good to my son. All he talks about is how he's going to learn to be a boat builder and work with your boys.

JOHN TAYLOR

If we do enough business, that just might happen. I'm pretty excited about the possibilities. I wouldn't even be above ground if it wasn't for Matthew saving my life. I owe him and I'm not going to forget.

As soon as these words are said, Joao makes his way over with his wife, the former Mrs. Smith. Both are dressed in a way that is far beyond the means of a normal minister, Joao's right arm is in a sling.

JOAO

Morning Sister Ines. Nice to see an enterprising member of my church. Morning to you sir. I don't believe we've met.

JOHN TAYLOR

The name's Taylor, John Taylor.

JOAO

You're that famous harpooner. Only survivor of the...Ulysses. You must have had some supernatural help. Almost as if you were spared for a higher purpose.

JOHN TAYLOR

Well like the bible says in Psalm 34:6, "The poor man cried and the Lord heard Him and saved Him out of all of his troubles.

JOAO SILVA

Funny you chose that verse. I'm teaching my flock to be lions, not lambs. Not all of us can afford to just sit back and wait for things to get better.

JOHN TAYLOR

The Bible also says: "The young lions do lack and suffer hunger but they that seek the Lord shall not want any good thing."

At this Joao's eyes turn serpentine and glow with demonic fury. His new bride is also not far behind him. Skip can sense the malevolence and immediately begins to growl and strain at his leash.

JOAO

Best we be moving on. Good day to you.

Ines waits for the couple to depart before speaking.

INES

There's something wrong about that man. Bad things have been happening since he showed up and suddenly became minister of our church. Seems like half the congregation has lost its sense of humility or kindness.

JOHN TAYLOR

It's easy enough for a person to get lost. Listen if you need help with anything I'll do my best. The boys are growing fast so I'm sure we'll be buying shirts from you at some point.

(MORE)

JOHN TAYLOR (CONT'D)
 I'd better get going I know you've
 got to keep your mind on business.

INES
 Stop by again.

John moves on trying to see what the boys are up to while simply enjoying the market.

EXT. MONDAY - BRISTOL BOATYARD - DAWN

John Taylor, wanting to start work as early as possible arrives at work just as the sun rises. As he enters the yard, he smells smoke and sees that a small fire has started in one of the sheds. John races at full speed only to discover Mr. Murphy struggling to regain his feet as he holds the back of his head.

MR. MURPHY
 I'll be alright.. Stop the fire.

As John turns to the shed he sees a dark figure attempting to flee. John picks up a piece of a discarded two by four and hurls it with deadly accuracy knocking out the probable arsonist. John and Mr. Murphy then form a bucket line with Mr. Murphy filling the buckets from a covered water trough used for cleaning and washing. The fire comes quickly under control. As both throw sand where any embers are suspected. John walks over to where the man who ran from the fire is still unconscious. He takes a rope and quickly ties his hands arms and legs so that he is immobile. John then turns him over revealing the he is James Norton, one of the men he'd seen at Mr. Withers boat yard. Mr. Murphy walks over while still rubbing the knot on his head.

MR. MURPHY (CONT'D)
 This lad's one of Wither's workmen.
 Fond of calling me "Mick" and
 "Paddy" whenever he noticed me
 walking by.

John Dumps a bucket of water on him and he blubbers while slowly coming to.

JAMES NORTON
 What...I'm gonna press charges.

MR. MURPHY
 Why in the Hell did you feel you
 had to try and set fire to my yard?

JAMES NORTON

I got fired because of you. Mr. Withers said we weren't selling any lobster boats since you showed up.

MR. MURPHY

Instead of trying to burn my yard to the ground did you ever consider building a better boat?

JAMES NORTON

What?

JOHN TAYLOR

Don't worry, you'll have plenty of time to focus on the big picture while you're cooling your heels in prison. Let me go and get the constable. This guy's well secured so shouldn't give you any trouble.

In a few moments John returns with Constable Green.

JAMES NORTON

These guys say I tried to light up their boat shed. Total crap! I was trying to catch the person who did it.

CONSTABLE GREEN

What do you have to say about this Mr. Murphy?

MR. MURPHY

Not true. Other than John Taylor's eye witness account of seeing Mr. Norton run from the boat shed, we have strong physical evidence. There's pitch on the bottom of his shoes from where he tipped over an open can in the shed...The matches, both burnt and unburnt, orange heads and all on the floor of the shed match the ones in his pocket.

JAMES NORTON

The pitch could have come from anywhere. So could the matches.

MR. MURPHY

Not so with the matches. If you look at the box it reads: "Joe's House of Tattoos, Scollay Square, Boston.

(MORE)

MR. MURPHY (CONT'D)

I don't believe that item is all that common around these parts and lastly, Mr. Norton had a motive, he blamed his firing on the fact that we're selling too many boats and therefore the source of all of his problems.

CONSTABLE GREEN

I guess blaming someone else is easier than figuring out how to build a better mouse trap. Anyway, Mr. Norton you're under arrest. Mr. Murphy you weren't a detective at some time were you?

MR. MURPHY

No but my father was a Bobby in London.

EXT. FIVE CORNERS - IN THE BACK OF INES BOSTON'S HOME - EVENING OF THE SAME DAY.

Ines is busy at her sewing machine joining together the panels of a shirt, while Aaron sits doing his homework. Suddenly their Jack Russel terrier Pete alerts and starts to bark hysterically. Ines grabs a double barrel shotgun from a nearby closet and quickly checks to see that it is loaded with two shells filled with rock salt. Ines starts for the back door when she directs Aaron.

INES

Aaron, get the lamp.

Aaron responds promptly and grabs the lamp as his mother raises her shotgun and promptly fires one barrel after another. Two figures drop the chickens that they are trying to steal while another individual attempts to run off with a squealing piglet. Pete, their dog, locks onto the back of one of the boys ankles but the invader shakes the dog off while screaming. Aaron loads a rock in his sling and lets fly. The well-aimed projectile drops the thief attempting to steal the pig in his tracks. When Aaron and his mother draw closer they can see that the failed thief is one of the new ministers step sons. He manages to regain consciousness as Aaron and his mother draw close and stands menacingly before them with a knife drawn from his back pocket.

INES (CONT'D)

Drop the knife or I'll put a load of rock salt in your eyes.

The minister's son moves back and stumbles over the garden's picket fence as he runs off into the night.

AARON BOSTON

Wow ma that was close. That boy was Anthony Smith. He's one of new minister's step sons.

INES BOSTON

Something bad has come to this island. Get me a hammer right quick while we repair this fence. All of our stock will scatter if we wait.

Laboring by lamplight, Ines and Aaron spend an hour repairing the fence.

INES BOSTON (CONT'D)

That's enough for now. We'll have to spruce it up tomorrow.

AARON BOSTON

I'll get up early and set it straight before I go to school.

Aaron's mother puts her hand on Aaron's shoulder

INES BOSTON

Thank you Aaron. With that sling of yours you're like another David. Thank you Lord for Watching over us.

AARON BOSTON

Amen!

Pete barks and waves his tail as the family makes their way back into their house.

EXT. STREET OUTSIDE WITHERS BOAT YARD - DAY

By late afternoon, John Taylor has finished work and locks the chain that prevents entry to Bristol Boat Yard. As he passes Withers Boat Yard some of the men sneer at him. Clive Amesbury, one of James Norton's friends, cat calls as he passes.

CLIVE AMESBURY

There goes the traitor working for a foreigner.

John Taylor knows that he should just let it go but can't help himself.

JOHN TAYLOR

Clive, next time you hurl an insult try standing in front of me. I bet the cat'll get your tongue quicker than spit.

Clive is about to try and say something when the other workmen shake their heads at him and wave him off. No further comments are heard.

EXT. SALTY DOG TAVERN - DAY

Minutes later as John continues on, he sees Constable Green struggling to put handcuffs on a particularly loud and belligerent sailor who has only recently arrived in town from a passing trading vessel. His shipmates stand idly by as Constable Green struggles. John rushes over and catches one of the sailors arms behind his back. Long hours of manual labor in the boat yard have returned to him his legendary vigor and strength. When some of the other sailors seem to contemplate taking part in a melee, John stares them down and they quickly retreat to the raucous atmosphere of the bar. Finally, one of the Constable's deputies arrives on the scene.

CONSTABLE GREEN

Wilbur, escort this drunk and lock him in the cell. And don't think about trying to uncuff him until I come over.

DEPUTY WILBUR MOSELY

Yes sir.

CONSTABLE GREEN

Reliable as usual. I appreciate your help John. I'm glad that the good Lord didn't let you go down with your ship, because we sure need you now.

JOHN TAYLOR

I hope. Let's stay alert and not be afraid to call evil "evil".

CONSTABLE GREEN

Amen to that.

The constable heads back to his office while John makes his way home.

WEST COAST OF THE ISLAND - NIGHT

Joao waits on a remote stretch of island as he faces the mainland. He has lit a medium sized fire to serve as a beacon to direct ships and boats that depend upon the cover of darkness. After several hours, a single sail is spotted small at first but growing ever larger. Eventually, the boat finds its way to shore as seven disreputable men and two rough looking women get out of the boat and head over to Joao.

CARLOS

We have heard your call oh master.

JOAO

Good we are almost ready.

CARLOS

What should we do now?

The others begin to smile wildly as they wait for Joao to speak.

JOAO

At the end of this road (Joao points behind him) you will find a home where an old man and women live. Go there, kill them and wait till I call you.

CARLOS

Yes master.

The jump with delight as they make their way towards the home of the innocents. In a moment they arrive outside the home of an elderly couple who are sharing a simple meal together as evil incarnate arrives at their door

EXT. TOWN DOCK - DAY

Early Saturday morning, Aaron, David and Daniel are fishing. Almost as soon as they drop their lines, Aaron hooks a cod fish that is over four feet long. David and Daniel are jumping for joy but Aaron remains silent throughout.

AARON BOSTON

This guy's too big for my bucket. I better get it over to the fish merchant. I might get as much as a dime for him.

DAVID TAYLOR

We'll walk you over. Hold on just a second.

David and Daniel reel in their lines and walk with Aaron in the direction of the fish merchant's shop located just off of the town dock.

DAVID TAYLOR (CONT'D)

Aaron you just caught a monster cod and you didn't say a word. We know what kind of fisherman you are so tell us. What's up?

AARON BOSTON

Last night a couple of bums tried to steal one of our piglets and a couple of chickens. We wouldn't have known what was going on if our dog Pete didn't notice and start barking his head off. The scary part is that one of them was the minister's step son. Ever since that guy has shown up things have gotten worse. The good people like my ma don't feel comfortable in church any more.

DANIEL TAYLOR

This guy sounds like he's some kind of devil.

EXT. SMALL BUILDING KNOWN AS DAVIS FISH MERCHANT - CONTINUOUS

The boys walk over to the fish merchant who is impressed with the striped bass that Aaron presents him with.

MR. DAVIS

This is like an answer to my prayers. Seems like half of the people on the mainland decided to visit the island this week. Until you showed up, I was just about out of cod. Are you interested in selling that big fella?

AARON BOSTON

You bet.

Mr. Davis puts the fish on the scale and scratches his chin.

MR. DAVIS

She's a big one alright. I tell you what, I'll give you ten cents for her.

AARON BOSTON

Make it twelve and it's a deal.

MR. DAVIS

You drive a hard bargain. Alright then, twelve it is.

Mr. Davis gives Aaron twelve cents and he promptly gives a penny each to David and Daniel.

DAVID TAYLOR

Aaron you caught the fish. We weren't expecting anything.

AARON BOSTON

Let's just say that you were my helpers.

DAVID TAYLOR

Thanks, but we owe you.

DANIEL TAYLOR

Yeah, big time.

AARON BOSTON

No big deal, but I do think we should pay a visit and see what that so-called new minister of ours is up to. Do you guys have your slings?

Both take out their slings from their pockets.

DANIEL TAYLOR

Stones as well.

Daniel shows that the bottom of his bucket is full of pre-selected stones.

AARON BOSTON

Then what are we waiting for?

The boys immediately take off in the direction of the Five Corners. A short time before Minister Silva and his wife the not so grieving former Mrs. Smith have already returned home.

EXT. INNES AND AARON'S HOUSE - DAY

The boys head for the shed in the back of Aaron's house and immediately place their fishing gear just inside the door.

DAVID TAYLOR

Good idea dropping of our gear we don't need the extra weight.

AARON BOSTON

And we don't need to be making noise either.

The boys continue on trying to stick to the sides of various houses in order to avoid being seen.

EXT. MINISTER'S HOUSE NEXT TO AFRICAN MEETING HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The boys move stealthily against a house adjoining the minister's residence. When Aaron reaches the edge of the house he gives a hand signal for them to stop. They freeze in place. At the same time Joao opens the back door of his house as Aaron ducks out sight. Joao looks left and right and then, accompanied by two of his step sons, quickly walks in the direction of the beach and cliffs located south west of the town. After he walks over the crest of a small hill the boys follow doing their best to keep out of sight.

DANIEL TAYLOR

Guys, let's stay off of the sand as much as we can. I don't put it past any of these devils to check for tracks on their way back.

AARON BOSTON

Good idea!

David gives a thumbs up.

EXT. BEACH PLUS CLIFFS ABOVE - 20 MINUTES LATER - AFTERNOON

As much as possible, the boys stay behind the weather-beaten pine trees that line the edge of the cliffs that overlook the beach below. Moving as quickly as possible, the boys stop then crawl on their stomachs as they look out over the point in the cliff which should reveal what Joao and his odd family members are doing. To their astonishment, Joao removes some sand and scrub brush revealing the entry to a cave. Joao enters while his step sons stand guard outside.

AARON BOSTON

Holy crap! I never knew there was a cave down there.

DAVID TAYLOR

Me neither. Let's get back before your mother and our father go crazy wondering where we've gone.

AARON BOSTON

Good idea.

As the boys move from the edge of the cliff, several stones are unexpectedly dislodged. One of Joao's step sons looks up and points at the area which the boys had just vacated. As the three friends leave the area as quickly as possible a fierce wind suddenly kicks up forcing Joao's sons to seek shelter in the cave. The blowing wind and sand also serves to remove the few tracks that the boys might have left behind.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE JUST OFF OF MAINE STREET - DAY

Aaron, David and Daniel arrive at the edge of town just in time for Aaron to help his mother take down her stand and load the remaining goods into their wheeled cart.

INES BOSTON

You sure look like you were busy today? Did you catch any fish?

AARON BOSTON

Aaron presents his mother with a shiny new dime. We only caught one fish. Thing is he was over four feet long. Mr. Davies gave me twelve cents. I gave a penny each, to David and Daniel. They helped.

INES BOSTON

I'm impressed. This money is going towards your education fund. Good job.

LISA

Wow!

EXT. BRISTOL BOAT YARD - CONTINUOUS

Daniel and David wait for their father as he locks the chain on the main gate.

JOHN TAYLOR

How was the fishing today guys?

DAVID TAYLOR

Aaron caught a four-foot-long
striper. Sold him for twelve cents
and gave us each a penny.

JOHN TAYLOR

Be sure and save that money for
your school. It isn't cheap on the
mainland.

DANIEL TAYLOR

We will dad.

JOHN TAYLOR

How would you guys like to have
some franks and beans for supper?

DANIEL TAYLOR

That sounds like a treat!

DAVID TAYLOR

I'll say!

EXT. ON THE ROAD HOME NEAR THE TREE WHERE THEY WERE FIRST
GIVEN THEIR SLINGS.

JOHN TAYLOR

What do you say guys? Do you think
you can hit that bullseye on the
tree?

DAVID TAYLOR

That sounds like a reasonable
request.

Both boys take out their slings as they each take a
preselected stone from Daniel's bucket. From a distance of 50
yards both David and Daniel line up and one after another hit
dead center on the mark on the tree. Both boys are grinning
from ear to ear.

JOHN TAYLOR

Looks like you guys have been
practicing. Talk about pressure.

John takes out his own sling, selects a stone from Daniel's
collection and after giving his head and shoulders a brief
shake lets fly with a rapid spin. The rock gives a resounding
"Thwack" as it hits dead center on the natural bullseye. John
looks up and comments:

JOHN TAYLOR
(CONT'D) Thank you Lord!

EXT. INNES BOSTON'S HOME - DAY

Aaron has just returned home from school as Lisa is about to leave. As Lisa is about to exit Ines hands her a package wrapped in brown paper.

INES BOSTON
Here's some fresh ham and cheese
for your family.

LISA
Thank you ma'am.

INES BOSTON
And go straight home now.

LISA
I will.

Lisa makes her way through the center of town, stopping only to adjust a strap on her shoe after she turns onto the street that leads to her own house. When she rises Joao, two odd looking men and a woman surround her. They quickly tie a dirty gag around her mouth and wrap her in a well-worn blanket making use of three lengths of rope to tie the middle and the ends. One of the strange men places the living bundle on his shoulder. Joao looks upon the scene smiling wickedly as he claps his hand and points in the direction of the secluded cave found by the boys two days before.

INT. INES AND AARON'S HOUSE - DAY

One hour later a loud knock is heard on the door as their dog Pete barks vigorously. Innes looks through a window next to the door and confirms that it is Lisa's mother. Innes quickly opens the door.

INES BOSTON
Martha?

MARTHA EDGARS
Lisa didn't come home! I found her
shoe. Someone must have taken her.

Ines looks outside and sees Lisa's older brother Thomas waiting at the bottom of the stairs.

INES BOSTON

Thomas run to town and tell
Constable Green someone's taken
Lisa! And tell him to bring help!

THOMAS

Yes ma'am!

INES BOSTON

Aaron run and get John Taylor and
his boys! And don't forget their
dog skip! Tell him someone's taken
Lisa! Hurry!

Aaron makes sure that his sling is in his pocket and pauses only to pick up his collection of slinging stones in a small canvass bag next to the front door. Innes in turn collects her shotgun and as many shells as she can find.

INES BOSTON (CONT'D)

Martha keep praying. We are going
to bring your daughter back!

In the meantime, fires are seen along the edge of the Five Corners as the strange individuals who met Joao on the beach several nights before begin to set random structures ablaze.

EXT. INES AND AARON'S HOME - NIGHT

Thirty minutes later, Aaron returns with John, David and Daniel. Skip is held on the end of a leash by David. Aaron goes into his home and Ines comes out.

INES BOSTON

Thank you for coming. Lisa, the
young girl who works with me was
taken. We found her shoe but
nothing more. She was proud of her
shoes. She never would have left
it behind. Do you think Skip would
be able to follow the scent if he
smelled it?

JOHN TAYLOR

Guaranteed!

Ines looks at Aaron and he immediately runs into the house returning with Lisa's shoe.

DAVID TAYLOR

We probably have an idea where she
is.

(MORE)

DAVID TAYLOR (CONT'D)

We followed that new minister and two of his stepsons when they left their house on Saturday.

INES

And just where did they go?

AARON BOSTON

They went into a cave at the bottom of the cliffs about a half mile in and left from Walker's. They put scrub and drift wood in front to disguise it but it's there. If you look up there are three pine trees at the top of the hill. there's no place else like it on the shore.

As they are talking the sound of horses is heard. Constable Green, his deputy Wilbur, Lisa's brother and Mr. Murphy arrive in the flatbed driven by Lester Wilkins. The Constable and Wilbur are carrying black powder long guns while Mr. Murphy has a cutlass in a leather scabbard strapped to his back.

CONSTABLE GREEN

We were lucky that Lester Wilkins had just made a delivery or we never would have made it. I asked for help but no one else was willing to come. I don't know what's happened to the people of this island.

JOHN TAYLOR

As far as we know there's a good chance Lisa was taken to a cave a half mile in at the base of the cliffs on West beach. We can take the wagon but then we'll have to go on foot.

CONSTABLE GREEN

Alright then, let's go.

Ines Boston looks at Lisa's brother Thomas.

INES BOSTON

Thomas, you go in the house and protect your mother. We'll get your sister.

EXT. IN SIGHT OF THE CLIFFS AND THE OCEAN.- NIGHT

CONSTABLE GREEN

We better stop here or else we'll make too much noise. Lester you stay here with the horses. Everyone else follow in single file. Ines try to hold off using the shotgun until it's necessary otherwise we'll lose the element of surprise.

Wilbur takes a rear-guard position while Ines and Mr. Murphy are in the middle. The boys, the constable and John are in the front.

CONSTABLE GREEN (CONT'D)

Let's go. John allows Skip to smell Lisa's shoe once more and then they take off moving quickly and quietly.

As soon as they hit the beach they are rushed by two wild looking men who charge from the side. Their yells are cut short as Mr. Murphy with surprising calm runs one of the attackers through while efficiently removing another's head from his body. He then wipes his sword with a pocket handkerchief and returns the blade to its scabbard.

CONSTABLE GREEN (CONT'D)

I'm impressed!

JOHN TAYLOR

Remind me to never get on your bad side.

MR. MURPHY

Don't worry, I'm a peace lover at heart.

When they reach the cliffs, they move even more carefully staying in the shadows whenever possible. As they approach the entrance of the cave they see three oversized individuals holding wicked looking blades who are acting as guards. John signals to the boys as they crouch low.

JOHN TAYLOR
Slings ready?

All three of the boys nod their heads.

JOHN TAYLOR (CONT'D)
Alright, David you take the one on
the left. Aaron take the one in the
middle and Daniel, take the one on
the right. On my signal.

The boys load their slings and stand ready as John signals for them to loose. Like meteors from the sky, the rocks are loosed and the three sentries fall as if hit by a sledge hammer. All in the rescue party then gather at the mouth of the cave.

CONSTABLE GREEN
Now we go in. Just John, Ines and
myself otherwise we'll make too
much noise.

The boys are obviously upset but John shakes his head.

JOHN TAYLOR
Guys you have to stay here and
watch our back. If they hear us
coming they'll kill Lisa.

The boys reluctantly agree. Turning, the Constable, John and Ines enter the cave. Half way through the tunnel which is lit by hand torches they hear chanting and as they draw closer, they see Joao kneeling in front of a fire while Lisa is tied to a vertical pole with a look of terror in her eyes. The Constable takes aim at Joao as the gun fails to fire. Immediately they are rushed by two of Joao's machete wielding followers. Both are systematically cut in half as Innes dispatches them with two blasts of her shotgun. Alerted by the attack, Joao immediately moves next to where Lisa is tied as he holds a knife to her throat.

JOAO
Take another step and I'll cut her
throat.

JOHN TAYLOR
Let her go. Take me instead.

Joao laughs.

JOAO
The man of God himself. Don't you
know that it's you I wanted all
along?

(MORE)

JOAO (CONT'D)

Would have killed you in Africa but
it was like you had some wall of
protection around you. Not
anymore.

Joao cuts Lisa's bonds but maintains a hold

JOAO (CONT'D)

And lay that harpoon on the ground
I know how good you are with it.

John shows his hands and steps forward. Just as Joao makes a horizontal thrust with his knife, John drops under it and pulls his neck knife from under his shirt. He plants it in Joao's heart and quickly steps back. As Joao falls into the fire the flames shoot upward and demonic moans are heard. When they step outside they see to their horror that they are surrounded by at least eight fresh attackers including the odd-looking women who came off of the boat under the cover of darkness several days before. All of the friends who banded together to rescue Lisa resolve to go down fighting as the boys stand together even though all of the rocks for their slings have been used. Just as they prepare to face their end the friends notice their attackers fall as if thunder struck. The Wampanoag Indians have arrived and efficiently fill the remaining forces of hell with numerous arrows. The braves face outward in a protective circle while the chief and the Medicine Man advance.

CHIEF

I told you we would come.

JOHN TAYLOR

I never had any doubts.

THE END