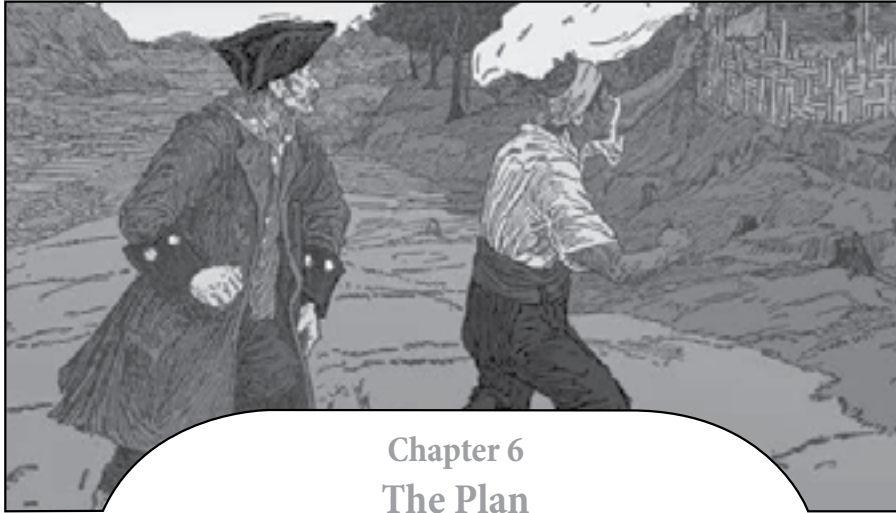


## Excerpt from “The Plan”

Read the excerpt from Chapter 6 and then answer the questions that follow it.



The next morning, I was awakened by the sound of loud voices.

“Flag of **truce!**” I heard someone yell. Then, “It’s Silver!”

I got up and rubbed my eyes. Sure enough, two men stood just outside the stockade—one of them was waving a white cloth, and the other was Silver himself.

“Stay inside,” said the captain. “Ten to one says this is a trick.” Then he shouted to the buccaneers, “Who goes there? Stand or we’ll fire!”

“Flag of truce!” cried Silver.

“What do you want with your flag of truce?” Captain Smollett shouted back.

“Cap’n Silver wishes to make terms,” the other man called out.

“Captain Silver?” said the captain. “Don’t know him. Who’s he?”

John Silver answered: “Me, sir. These poor lads have chosen me

cap'n, after your **desertion**, sir. We're willing to submit, if we can come to terms, and no bones about it."

Captain Smollett agreed to meet with Silver—and only Silver. Silver threw his crutch over the fence, got a leg up, and, with great vigor and skill, climbed over the fence and dropped to the other side.

"Well, now," he said, "that was a good scare you gave us last night. We lost some men, but you mark me, cap'n, it won't work twice!" said Silver. "We want that treasure and we'll have it! You would just as soon save your lives, I reckon. We want the map, so if you hand it over, we won't do you no harm."

"Not a chance," replied the captain.

"Give us the map," said Silver, "and stop shooting poor seamen. If you do that, we'll give you a choice. You can come aboard with us once the treasure is stowed away, and I'll give you my word of honor to put you ashore somewhere safe. Or, if that ain't to your fancy, you can stay here. We'll divide the supplies with you, and I'll send the first ship I sight to pick you up."

"Is that all?" Captain Smollett asked. "Now hear me! If you come up one by one, unarmed, I'll clap you all in irons and take you home to a fair trial in England. If not, it won't end well for you."

Silver looked scornfully at the captain.

"Give me a hand up!" he cried.

"Not I," returned Captain Smollett.

"Who'll give me a hand up?" Silver roared.

Not one among us moved. Silver had to crawl along the sand,

grumbling, till he got close to the door and could hoist himself up on his crutch. Then he spat into the spring.

“Before an hour’s out, I’ll knock in your old log house. Them that die will be the lucky ones!” he cried.

As soon as Silver left the stockade, we returned to our posts and loaded our muskets. There were several small holes in the walls of the log house. We peered out through the holes and waited for the **onslaught**.

“Put out the fire!” shouted the captain. “We mustn’t have smoke in our eyes.”

Suddenly, with a loud cry, a group of pirates leaped from the woods on the north side and ran straight toward the stockade. At the same time, gunfire opened from the woods. A rifle ball sang through the doorway and knocked the doctor’s musket to bits.

The pirates climbed over the fence like monkeys. We fired at them, and immediately three of them fell to the ground. Four others made it over the fence and charged forward. In an instant, they were upon us.

“At ’em, all hands!” one of the pirates roared in a voice of thunder. One pirate grasped Hunter’s musket and wrenched it out of his hands. With one stunning blow, he laid poor Hunter senseless on the floor. Meanwhile, another pirate appeared in the doorway and descended upon the doctor with his **cutlass**.

The log house was filled with smoke, cries, and confusion. Flashes and the reports of pistol shots rang out.

“Out, lads, and fight ’em in the open!” cried Captain Smollett.

1. Why do you think Captain Smollett says he doesn't know who Captain Silver is?

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2. Why do you think Captain Smollett and his men refuse to give Silver a hand up?

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3. Summarize this scene in your own words.

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