

THE TEACLIPPER RACES

OR

THE GREAT TEA RACE

Written by

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Based on a true story

Address  
Phone Number

1 EXT. THE SURLY SEAFAIRER PUB - LONDON 1866 - MORNING 1

A line of gruff sailors and fisherman extends out the front door of the pub and onto a city street of London by the harbor. Next to the men is a lithograph sign that reads "Join four time winner of The Great Tea Race, Ned Kingsly the 7th for a chance to join his gold medal crew!"

2 INT. THE SURLY SEAFARER PUB - MORNING 2

Inside the pub the row of eager sailors stand in a single file which extends from the front door to a back table. A barmaid takes their orders one by one while another server finds the sailors in line that match the beers on his tray.

At the head of the line and sitting behind a table we see NED KINGSLY, 35, Handsome and proper with finely preened mutton chops and a fully buttoned overcoat. Ned attempts to listen to a drunk sailor tell a tall tale.

DRUNK SAILOR

It wasn't until I had to rescue my  
lost leg from that blood thirsty  
shark that I realized the Ocean was  
my one true woman.

As a server walks by, Ned quickly grabs their arm.

NED

My good man, fetch me some cucumber  
sandwiches.

Ned turns back to the drunk sailor.

DRUNK SAILOR

So, I got me a peg, divorced my  
wife, and now I'm here ready to get  
back out to the only honest women  
there is, my lady the ocean blue.

NED

(Sighs)

Thank you for your interest but I'm  
unable to offer you a spot on the  
Taeping. Good luck to yo-

DRUNK SAILOR

WHAT? You don't like cripples  
working on your ship?

Beat. Ned places his palms flat on the table.

NED

Sir, your unfortunate handicap is a hinderance I would have been willing to overlook if you had exhibited some redeeming qualities of a proper sailor but your intoxication and mysogeny were enough. Good day to you.

Ned uses his open palm to show the drunk sailor the door.

The drunken sailor walks away puzzled and the server returns with a plate of cucumber sandwiches. Ned takes a bite of one and then places it down as he looks up to greet the next sailor in line, KALEA FISHER, 30, A half Hawaiian half British woman dressed in a functional sailors outfit of the times. The two size each other up as the men in line behind her gawk.

NED (CONT'D)

Ned Kingsly the 7th.

KALEA

Kalea Fisher, it's a pleasure sir.

Ned and Kalea shake hands.

NED

Tell me about your experience on the water, Fisher.

Kalea hands Ned a resume drawn up on fine parchment.

KALEA

You'll find I have experience as a bosun in charge of equipment and crew though I am not above being a deck hand for you sir.

Ned looks over the resume and up at Kalea.

NED

You can read and write?

KALEA

Yes sir, in both The Kings and in Olelo Hawai'i. I also have-

A loud crack of the front door to the pub interjects this moment as a band of rascally looking sailors enter dramatically. Their clothes hang with tattered leathers and buckles and clink with their every step. They are lead by SIEGE, 33, a Pakistani British sailor dressed more like a pirate than a sailor.

SIEGE

I understand the allure of being on  
The Ned Kingsly's 3 time race  
winning ship but what I don't  
understand is how anyone could want  
to spend 200 days aboard that ship  
with you.

Siege and his men stop directly in front of Ned and Kalea.  
Siege takes a bite of one of Ned's sandwiches.

SIEGE (CONT'D)

You're so... boring.

NED

Good day to you Siege.

SIEGE

Even the way you say 'Hello' is  
boring.

KALEA

If you were listening more closely  
you would have heard he was  
actually saying goodbye.

The me in line let out a supportive 'Ooooo.'

SIEGE

If you were listening more closely  
you would have--

The front door opens as GEORGE PLIMPT, 33, a Southern  
American man with a full red head of hair and an overly  
friendly demeanor walks in with his own crew of men.

GEORGE

Well glory be to me and my crew if  
it isn't not one but two masters of  
the sea!

SIEGE

(Inwardly)  
God Damn it.

GEORGE

Add me and that makes three.  
Everybody gettin' ready for another  
grand few months out on those  
Beautiful oceans of ours?

SIEGE

George, can't you see we're in the  
middle of something?

GEORGE

I see the captain here is interviewing all these fine sailors, boy o' he sure likes to take his time. I'm all crewed up as you can see.

George gestures gayly to his crew.

SIEGE

Me too Ned, What's taking you so long, need to check everyone's primary school marks and letters of recommendation in triplicate?

GEORGE

He's probably just finding the right man for every job.

George notices Kalea.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

Or woman! Wowee, Ned you bringing along a lady's touch this year? Let me guess, you're the cook? Keeping all the hard sailors full and happy.

NED

First mate actually. If you'll accept Kalea.

Everyone of the sailors in line crane their necks around to see Ned's offer and Kalea's answer.

KALEA

I do sir.

The men in line audibly let out various of 'awe', 'shucks', and 'darn-it's.'

GEORGE

Well I'll be a barnacle on dolphin, It's a brave new world.

SIEGE.

(Inwardly)  
Jesus Christ, George.

Siege palms his face.

GEORGE

Siege why don't you like me?

SIEGE.  
You try too hard.

Ned shakes Kalea's hand and starts packing up his things.

NED  
You should try a little harder  
Siege, it might look good on you.

SIEGE  
Talent doesn't need to try hard.  
That's why it's talent.

NED  
Thank you everyone for coming but  
all positions have been filled.

All the remaining sailors in the pub groan and walk out. The bar maids and servers are left with beers they planned to serve that they now do not know what to do with. Every crew member and captain makes their way towards the front door.

NED (CONT'D)  
Gentleman I wish you the best and  
will see you soon.

SIEGE  
Not soon enough for me too-

GEORGE  
Soon enough for we great tamers of  
the waves, we three knights of the  
ocean blue to lasso the sea with  
our crew. To launch our boats to  
china and back for tea, silver and  
eternal glory!

George kicks open the front door to the pub and the three step out onto the bustling street of London.

TITLE CARD: 'THE TEACLIPPER RACES'

EXT. CITY STREETS OF LONDON - LATER - DAY

The sounds of the hustle and bustle of a city street. People ride stage coaches down the cobblestone. Merchants offer newspapers. We hear the ambient noises of the harbor as captains and crew members alike finish work loading their sail boats. Ned and Kalea walk towards a docking station.

NED (O.S.)  
Is the hold prepared?

EXT. THE LONDON HARBOR - CONTINUOUS

KALEA

Aye.

NED

What about the ballast?

KALEA

We have one ton of raw steel to act as ballast to be replaced by the weight of tea for our return.

NED

Good.

KALEA

Is there anything else before we head home for the night to set sail in the morning?

Ned stops suddenly.

NED

(flabbergasted)

Only the most important thing!

Ned turns to reveal ARTHUR his 12 year old son who is doing 1800s style calisthenic exercises in a goofy manner. Arther is taking the movements very seriously though he looks ridiculous.

NED (CONT'D)

I'm very proud of the work you've put in my son. I'm sorry I'll not be there to see you on your big race day.

Ned kneels down and puts his hand on Arther's shoulder to meet his eye-line.

NED (CONT'D)

Run your race Arthur. The effort you put in is more important than the results of your effort. One step and one breathe at a time.

ARTHUR

And one wave at a time and one gust of wind for you father.

Ned pats him on the head.

NED  
Thats my boy!

We see Arthur run home in a very lanky mechanical manner.

KALEA  
Enjoy your evening with your family  
sir. I'm heading home to say  
goodbye to mine. See you in the  
morning.

INT. THE ARIEL - SUNSET

Siege's ship 'The Ariel' is a multimast clipper ship that resembles a pirate's ship more than a sailor's. The wood is worn and the sails are patched and tanned. A black flags flaps on top of the crows nest.

Seige and ALEXANDER, 31, A rugged bearded British man and brothers in arms stand on the deck of the boat.

SEIGE  
Everything in order Zander?

ALEXANDER  
Aye. The crew are just now taking  
inventory and will report back to  
me with what's in stock.

SIEGE  
I'm not sure what I'm more excited  
for; the party on the way to China  
or the race back.

ALEXANDER  
We may not win every year but at  
least we don't have trouble  
recruiting.

CUT TO:

A group of rowdy sailors throwing chests into the hold as they sing songs and drink ale.

SIEGE  
But this year I'm certain we'll  
win.

Alexander and Siege share a devilish smile.

ALEXANDER  
I'll see you first thing in the  
morning then?

SEIGE

Same time, same place. Can't leave  
without saying our farewells.

ALEXANDER

It's only tradition.

INT. NED'S VICTORIAN HOME - EVENING

Ned's family sits around a dinner table. Dinner has been finished as plates are piled to the side. Ned is pointing to a map already spread out. His wife ELEANOR, 32, Dark Haired British and wise beyond her years, points her finger down to a map.

ELEANOR

So right here Arthur, after your father's ship leaves China, He shall travel south towards Taiwan and around this channel of islands here.

NED

I would be faster to take this northern route through here but it's dangerous and it's unmapped.

ELEANOR

It's more important to your father to get home safely than to win.

ARTHUR

But daddy always wins!

NED

I'm responsible for not just my own life but for all the members of my crew and that, my son, is more important than a victory.

ELEANOR

(To Arthur)

How you're responsible for your own race and your homework too. Which is finished I assume?

Eleanor points to Arthur's desk with where an unwritten essay sits. Arthur groans and stomps away.

ELEANOR (CONT'D)

I'm excited for you but also relieved this is the last time of all this.

(MORE)

ELEANOR (CONT'D)

Six months away at a time is not good for me. Not good for us. And not good for Arthur.

NED

Believe me when I say this is the last time. It's not lost on me what I sacrifice in order to win this race. What good is a bounty of silver to spend on my family if I can't spend it *with* my family.

Ned blows out a candle and they kiss.

EXT. GRAVEYARD - DAWN

Mist and dew adorn the grass and gravestones. The sun slowly rises in the background.

Alexander stands in front of a grave as we hear the morning bells chime in the distance. He's clutching a silver locket with a picture of a him and his mother. Siege walks over carrying a huge bouquet of flowers which he carefully spreads over the grave.

SEIGE

She was the one of the greatest women I have ever and will ever meet.

ALEXANDER

Saying goodbye was never the hard part. It was knowing that it was inevitable.

Siege grabs Alexander's shoulder and uses it to turn them eye to eye.

SIEGE

I would give everything I've earned to have found and created a cure in time.

ALEXANDER

I know you would.

SEIGE

Then let this last race be for her. We can use the earnings this year to help fund a medicine for others. I know she would've wanted that. She was your mother after all.

Beat. They turn back to the gravestone.

ALEXANDER

She was yours too.

Alexander and Siege throw a single arm around each other. They are literally brothers in arms. Alexander takes a swig of a whiskey bottle and then gives it to Siege who does the same. Zan then places the bottle on the gravestone.

EXT. LONDON HARBOR - LATER - MORNING

Kaela stands by the doc with an elderly British man. PORTHOS, her 88 year old grandfather. He is spry and adorable.

PORTHOS

Show them gruffs what we Fishers are made of.

KALEA

I'll be back in a little over 200 days.

PORTHOS

Safe safe my dear. Oh, and bring me back a small statue of a dragon!

Porthos hands Kaela a small coin.

KALEA

Why a dragon?

PORTHOS

Because I'm like a dragon! Can't you see the resemblance?

Porthos does a poor impression of a dragon and let's out a small cat-like growl.

KALEA

Oh, I see now, very dragon like.

They giggle and Kaela kisses Porthos on the forehead. She then goes to board her ship (Ideally a tracking shot that follows her walk the dock past ships getting loaded. She enters the galley and sees men prepping ropes. She walks up to the main deck and helps steady a box being lowered by crane. She walks up to the helm to join Ned overlooking the crowd that has gathered on the Harbor.

EXT. THE TAEPING - DAY

The Taeping is clearly a marvelous ship. The brass railings sparkle with the glint of the sun. Men polish them. The sails are bleach white like fine linen sheets. Sailors set their riggings. The wooden deck is stained with a perfect light brown glaze. A sailor sweeps it.

Ned is joined by Kayla as they stand at the edge of the top deck and look out onto the streets of London. We see a large crowd gather to see them off. A man stands on a box down below. He is some sort of MASTER OF CEREMONIES. The MC is dressed in overly decorated clothes and has a makeup caked face. As he speaks he gesticulates with a white handkerchief.

EXT. LONDON STREETS - CONTINUOUS

MC

Today marks the departure of these  
British sailing ships and their  
trip to China.

The crowd cheers.

MC (CONT'D)

After 3 months of travel they will  
land in The Orient. Once there,  
they will load up on the finest tea  
in all the land and return back to  
ENGLAND!

The crowd cheers.

MC (CONT'D)

The first ship to return and  
deliver fresh tea to me will  
receive an extra bounty of silver  
and get to set the price of tea for  
the season. All of the captains of  
all of the ships who arrive after  
the first ship agree to set a less  
desirable price for their tea in  
respect for the winner.

SHOT: We see Siege, George, and other unnamed captains 'mean mug' Ned who looks stoic and confident.

MC (CONT'D)

The race will officially start on high tide in China but because we cannot be there to signal and celebrate it's start, I declare this the unofficial start to The Great Tea Race of 1866.

The MC pops a bottle of champagne and a band starts playing in the background on the street. People start drinking and dancing and throwing flowers.

EXT. THE TAEPING - CONTINUOUS

Ned and Kaela pop their own bottle of champagne and Ned pours flute glasses for he and his crew.

NED

Congratulations everyone. I look forward to steady trip to China. Ready to hoist anchor and receive our tug boat immediately. Cheers.

Everyone clinks their glasses as the anchor along the side of the ship is pulled up. A tug boat attaches it's line.

EXT. THE ARIEL - MOMENTS LATER

Siege holds out a bottle of champagne in front of his crew and then with a swift slice of his dagger, beheads the top of the champagne cork. Liquid sprays everywhere, everyone of his crew members cheer.

SEIGE

Hoozah to our first days at sea, men!

CREW

(in chorus)  
Hoozah!

EXT. OFF THE COAST OF ENGLAND - LATER

The tugs all pull the clipper ships out to sea and then release them into the open ocean.

EXT. THE TAEPING - LATER

Ned stands at his bow sipping a glass of champagne. Kaela stands by his side.

KALEA

It's been a long six months since  
I've been out at sea.

NED

And how does it feel to be back?

KALEA

It feels right sir. I won't say it  
feels like home because-

NED

It's not is it.

KALEA

No sir, Home is home.

NED

I understand exactly what you mean.

KALEA

But the sea, it's well. It's the  
sea.

They cheers glasses as the Ariel speeds into view in the  
background.

EXT. THE ARIEL - CONTINUOUS

Seige hangs off the side of the Ariel with one hand holding a  
topsail and the other hand clutching a bottle of champagne.  
His hair blows in the wind.

SEIGE

(Shouting to Ned)

I see you're finally loosening up  
Captain. Is that champagne in your  
hand?

EXT. THE TAEPING - CONTINUOUS

Ned turns with Kalea to the side rail.

NED

(Shouting back)

Alcohol is for special occasions.  
This happens to be one. Cheers to  
you and your crew, Siege.

EXT. THE ARIEL - CONTINUOUS

SIEGE  
Life is a special occasion! Alcohol  
just makes it so!

EXT. THE TAEPING - CONTINUOUS

NED  
That doesn't make any sense, Siege!

EXT. THE ARIEL - CONTINUOUS

Siege, though a badass hanging off the side of his boat, is a little drunk.

SEIGE  
You're going down this year, Ned!  
I'm the greater captain and we both  
know it!

EXT. THE TAEPING - CONTINUOUS

NED  
The race doesn't start till we  
leave China, my good chum! Try not  
to spoil all your energy before the  
fun begins.

EXT. THE ARIEL - CONTINUOUS

SEIGE  
Life is a race, and we're all-

As Siege begins his monologue, another ship cuts in between his and Ned's. It is The Serica, captained by George Plimpt.

GEORGE (O.S.)  
We're all fibers woven into this  
grand tapestry called life!

EXT. THE ARIEL - CONTINUOUS

SEIGE  
I was making a race metaphor, not a-

EXT. THE SERICA - CONTINUOUS

The following is conversed ship to ship between the three captains.

GEORGE  
Beautiful day to sail to China, Aye  
Ned-o ole pal!

NED  
Yes indeed, George. The winds are  
right and true.

GEORGE  
The wind's are indeed favorable!

Siege struggles to hear as he feels slowly cut out of the conversation.

SEIGE  
What are they talking about, the  
wind?

GEORGE  
Hey Ned, how do you get such a good  
deal on tea every year?

NED  
It's just a trick of the trade,  
George. I'll never tell.

SEIGE  
Now they're talking about tricks?  
Enough of this.

Siege grabs a roll of parchment from a nearby deck hand. He starts scribbling something on it aggressively.

NED  
Hey George, what keeps you in such  
a good mood?

GEORGE  
Well Ned, I guess I'm just blessed  
with an unflappable disposition.

Siege finishes scribbling on his parchment. He quickly empties his champagne bottle and then jams the parchment into the bottle.

GEORGE (CONT'D)  
My mother says that I-

The bottle of champagne knocks into George's back, clearly thrown from ship to ship. George lifts up the bottle and pulls out the parchment. He unrolls it to reveal a poorly drawn picture of a hand giving him the middle finger.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

Quite the artist there Siege.

George looks over at Siege who is also giving him the middle finger.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

Classic Siege. Well gentlemen, I have a ship to attend to. May we all reach Chinese waters safely.

George heads back into his ship.

EXT. THE TAEPING - CONTINUOUS

Ned turns to Kalea.

NED

Are you ready for your first assignment Miss. Fisher?

Kalea stands at attention.

KALEA

Aye Captain. I'm eager to-

As Kalea begin's to speak, her words are overlaid with the sound of a loud SNAP. Kalea and Ned quickly turn to see one of the 'Guy Lines' buckle and recoil up the center mast. The Guy Line, flaps about in the wind.

KALEA (CONT'D)

You there, Allay that guy line!

A group of nearby men drop their various boxes, mops, and wrenches to quickly climb the center mast. Just as quickly as the men hoist each other up to grab the flailing guy line another two ropes SNAP at the bow of the ship. We see the very large MAIN SALE fly up the front mast and whirl around in the wind wildly.

NED

All hands on deck!

All the sailors present on The Taeping scramble to climb the front mast. The three men on the center mast, struggling to grab the 'Guy Line' see the commotion and abandon their task to help the others.

KALEA

No! We need as many hands on the  
guy line as possible!

None of the men respond to this as they continue to climb the  
front mast to save the flagging sale.

NED

Do not lose that main sail men!

Kalea turns to Ned.

KALEA

(deadly serious)

Captain, the center mast does not  
have the strength to stand  
unsupported.

NED

It'll hold, Kalea. If we lose that  
sail, we'll lose a week at least on  
our way to China.

KALEA

Sir. The mast has the compressive  
strength to support it's own weight  
but at these speeds if it catches  
the wrong wind load it's going to  
fall.

Ned looks at the mast as it bows in the center from the wind  
around it. He sees the other Guy Lines supporting the lateral  
weight of the mast go slack and then pull taught. He sees  
that it is indeed bending under it's own weight and the  
weight of the wind. He looks back to see the crew, now up on  
the front mast holding the edges of the top sail in a  
desperate state to save it.

KALEA (CONT'D)

Sir, if that mast goes down, we're  
never leaving English waters.

Beat.

NED

ALL HANDS ABANDON TASK!

The men freeze at this order. Kalea moves to the base of the  
front mast with a demeanor is that is both powerful and  
commanding.

KALEA

We need to allay that guy line now!

NED

You there, climb that center mast!

KALEA

You two, untie that lost rope from  
it's anchor point. We need a  
replacement.

One sailer immediately starts climbing up the mast as two  
more run off to secure a new rope. As the first sailer climbs  
the mast we see it bend under his weight.

KALEA (CONT'D)

Brace that mast men!

Kalea forcefully presses her hands up against the side of the  
mast as other men come to join her. They struggle to hold the  
mast.

KALEA (CONT'D)

We need a stronger brace.

Ned and Kalea, side by side, press up against the mast pole  
as they look around the ship for a brace. The mast pole  
creaks and bends like a tree unable to withstand a storm. Ned  
points at a sailor.

NED

You, come with me.

Ned, stepping away from the mast, grabs the sailor by the  
shoulder and pulls him below deck. We see Kalea struggle with  
the rest of the crew. The two sailors tasked with untying the  
anchor point to the rope now replace it with a fresh new  
rope.

KALEA

Prepare to tie those two ropes  
together!

Ned and the sailor return carrying a banquet table from below  
deck. They flip the table up longways and wedge it up against  
the mast and the deck below. Holding some of the weight of  
the mast, a few sailors step back to help wedge the table. As  
this occurs a few small cracks begin to appear in the base of  
the mast. Wood starts to splinter with light cracking sounds.  
Kalea looks up at the sailor on the mast as he reaches out to  
grab the snapped rope.

KALEA (CONT'D)

Hurry, sailor!

The sailor jumps down, rope in hand, and lands in the arms of  
a few other sailors.

Kalea grabs the rope from him and sprints over to the newly replaced anchor rope. She slides to her knees and starts tying a complex knot.

SAILOR

What are you doing? A thief knot is faster.

The table holding the mast and the mast itself both let out loud cracks.

KALEA

Yes but the Double Fisherman knot is stronger.

Kalea finishes the knot and looks at the crew of men holding the table. The mast cracks again and releases weight onto the table which snaps in the center with a loud BANG, pieces of it flying into the air. The mast itself cracks again loudly and then freezes as the rope next to Kalea jolts taught. The mast sways lightly in the wind as it is now secure. All the sailors let out a sigh of relief. Kalea leans onto her back and locks eyes with Ned as they let out a calm sigh of relief. Beat. Two sailors high five.

KALEA (CONT'D)

Well don't stop now, men. Go save that top sail!

All the men snap to attend this problem as Ned and Kalea smile. Ned walks over to Kalea and gives her a helping hand up.

EXT. THE ARIEL - CONTINUOUS

Siege, stoic and calculating, watches as the crew of the Taeping resume their daily tasks.

SIEGE

Hmmm.

INT. THE MESS HALL OF THE TAEPING - LATER

The crew stand about with plates of food in their hands. Kalea stands in the center of a group of men who celebrate her.

SAILOR

Quite the set of brass anchors on you, Kalea! How did you know how to do all that so quickly?

KALEA

All that is nothing more than years  
on the sea and a knowledge of  
boats.

SAILOR

Still though, The Captain may be  
the head of this ship but you're  
surely the backbone!

Kalea is slapped on the back by this man and the sailors  
cheers to her. She looks over at Ned who observes the crew as  
they eat and celebrate. Ned, unlike the others doesn't have  
any food in his hands and has a much more stolid look on his  
face.

SAILOR (CONT'D)

I say instead of 'Kalea' we call  
you 'Keel' from now on. Keel,  
because you're the structure we all  
depend on! To Keel!

The sailors all raise their glasses and cheers.

CREW

(in chorus)  
To Keel!

Everyone drinks. Kalea steps aside and walks over to Ned.

KALEA

You're not eating, Captain?

NED

Not every crew member has gotten  
their meal yet.

Ned gestures to the last few sailors grabbing plates to fill  
with grub.

NED (CONT'D)

The Captain eats last.

Beat.

KALEA

Sir, there's something else on your  
mind isn't there?

NED

Doesn't it strike you as odd that  
two ropes snapped within seconds of  
each other?

KALEA

It does sir. But do you really believe something else might be going on.

Ned looks at Kalea and then pulls a chair over to himself. He takes a step up onto the chair and faces into the room.

NED

Attention crew!

All the sailors lower their voices and face Ned.

NED (CONT'D)

I have significant pride to be your captain every year. For those of you returning it is an honor to sail alongside you yet again. For those of you who are new, know that I am humbled by your desire to sail with me. I am well aware that this ship under my command has won the great tea race every year for the last four years. I believe we are on our way to our fifth. However, I believe that our mutual adoration for the ocean and for adventure is what bonds us together on this yearly voyage to china. Know this, it is not victory nor adventure that is my duty as your captain, but safety.

The men all look to each other at this.

NED (CONT'D)

The Taeping is meant to be the safest ship on the ocean. My job is to get us to China, load up with tea, and then get us back home to our families. I do not care if we lose this race, I only care about each and every one of you. So eat and drink up and enjoy yourselves. Today we experienced a problem that was deftly solved by all of you and Kalea here. A cheers to her again.

CREW

To Kalea!

They all cheers.

NED

From this day forward feel free to come to me with any concern for safety. Openly communicate with each other as issues arise. If you see a problem, discuss it with at least two crew members and report it to Kalea. A ship rises and falls with it's crew.

Beat. The men nod at this.

NED (CONT'D)

And a crew sails on it's stomach.  
Eat up men!

CREW

Here here!

The men all cheers again and start up rowdy dinner banter. Ned steps down from the chair with a helping hand from Kalea.

KALEA

Good speech sir.

NED

I'm just pleased we didn't hit a big wave while I was up on that chair.

Kalea and Ned chuckle at this as a sailor walks over to the two of them.

SAILOR

Excuse me, sir. You need to come look at something.

EXT. THE TAEPING - NIGHT - MOMENTS LATER

Ned and Kalea are lead by the sailor above deck. The sailor holds a lantern casting a dim light on the otherwise starry night. The sailor leans down to a side rail and pulls up a piece of rope.

SAILOR

Sir, after we replaced the rope I inspected the broken one to see what could have caused the break.

The Sailor holds the rope up to view.

SAILOR (CONT'D)

You see here, it's worn from a snag. The rope eroded against it's buckle.

KALEA

That's normal wear and tear.

SAILOR

But here, the fibers have been sliced by a blade.

Ned and Kalea look at each other.

SAILOR (CONT'D)

And not just any blade sir, something serrated at the tip but smooth at the hilt. See the uneven breakage between these strands compared to these. An oriental pocket knife perhaps?

Ned and Kalea inspect the rope further.

NED

Well well, Miss Fisher. It looks like we have a saboteur.

(END OF MID ACT 1 SCENES: SIEGE'S SHIP ADDRESSES IT'S OWN ISSUES.

- 1) ABOARD SIEGE'S SHIP, THE ARIEL, WE FIND SIEGE AND ALEXANDER DISCUSSING THEIR CREW IN A NEGATIVE LIGHT. IT IS ALMOST MORE LIKE GOSSIP THAN LIKE A CAPTAIN'S REVIEW OF THE CREW. MID CONVERSATION A CREW MEMBER ENTERS THE CAPTAIN'S QUARTERS UNINVITED. HE BRINGS A PROBLEM TO SIEGE'S ATTENTION BUT IS MET WITH A BELITTLING TONE FROM SIEGE. IT IS ALEXANDER WHO CONVINCES SIEGE TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEM AND AFFECTIVELY SIDESTEPS SIEGE'S DESIRE TO EMASCULATE HIS CREW MEMBER.
- 2) SIEGE, ALEXANDER, AND THIS CREW MEMBER INSPECT A MOLDY SUB-DECK UNDER THE COVER OF NIGHT. THE WOOD OF THE DECK HAS ROT AND MOLD FROM POOR UPKEEP AND LACK OF OVERSIGHT.
- 3) SIEGE WAKES UP HIS CREW TO SCRUB THE DECK AND PULL UP ANY ROTTED BOARDS. SIEGE AND ALEXANDER WATCH AS THE CREW WORKS. WE SEE EARLY SIGNS OF DERISION AMONGST THE CREW. ALEXANDER ATTEMPTS TO JOIN IN THE CLEANING AND REPAIR PROCESS BUT SIEGE WON'T ALLOW THIS. THE CREW TAKES NOTICE.
- 4) 80 DAYS LATER, KALEA STANDS ON THE DECK WITH A CANDLE LIT, SHE COVERS IT FROM THE WIND, SAYS A PRAYER TO HERSELF AND BLOWS IT OUT. A CREW MEMBER ASK ABOUT THE RITUAL. SHE EXPLAINS THAT IT IS FOR HER LATE MOTHER.

THAT THE ONLY FAMILY SHE HAS LEFT IS HER GRANDFATHER. THAT SHE IS FEARFUL HE MAY NOT LIVE LONG ENOUGH TO SEE HER RETURN. NED JOINS IN TO ACKNOWLEDGE HER FEAR. NED IS FEARFUL THAT THE TIME HE IS MISSING WITH HIS OWN FAMILY COMES AT A COST. THIS CONVERSATION IS INTERCUT WITH SHOTS OF THEIR FAMILIES AT HOME. KALEA'S GRANDFATHER STRUGGLING TO DO HIS OWN CHORES. NED'S WIFE ELEANOR TAKING CARE OF THEIR SON ARTHUR ON HER OWN. ARTHUR BEING COACHED THROUGH HIS HOMEWORK BY ELEANOR WHILE SHE ALSO COOKS. ELEANOR AT ARTHUR'S SCHOOL WATCHING HIM RUN IN A TRACK RACE. NED FINISHES HIS MONOLOGUE AND THEY LOOK OUT TO THE SEA TO WONDER WHAT THEY ARE MISSING.

EXT. THE CHINA DOCKS - MID DAY - 21 DAYS LATER

The Ariel, Taeping, Serica and other ships sail into the Chinese harbor. Chinese tug boats throw lines over their tug attachments. They are towed into dock.

EXT. THE DOCKS - CONTINUOUS

Siege flips down his boarding planks and stomps onto the dock of China.

SIEGE

Welcome men, to the land of the rising sun! Where the tea is plentiful, the opium is rich, and the-

GEORGE

And the culture is as deep and rich as the soul of this majestic planet of ours.

SIEGE

God damnit George.

Ned and Kalea walk out with crates in tow.

KALEA

Sir, we have our 1 ton of ballast ready for relinquishment.

NED

Oh no, we're not going to part from this just yet.

KALEA

Well what do you plan to do with it?

NED  
You'll see.

Ned and Kalea walk into the market.

INT. THE ARIEL - CAPTAINS QUARTERS - LATER

Alexander and Siege stand over Siege's wardrobe chest as Siege pulls out a tattered blanket.

ALEXANDER  
What do you want to go with this  
time? Yellow fever, Smallpox, The  
Plague?

SIEGE  
Pneumonia.

ALEXANDER  
Classic choice, Captain.

The two of them smile at each other as Siege throws the tattered blanket over his shoulders.

CUT TO:

EXT. CHINESE MARKET - LATER

The hustle and bustle of the Chinese market rages loudly as pedestrians bark at merchants and haul trade items. Ned and Kalea speak to a merchant through an elderly Chinese female TRANSLATOR.

TRANSLATOR  
(Chinese)  
This silver doesn't equal that  
amount of tea.

CHINESE MERCHANT  
(Chinese)  
That's more than enough Tea for  
you!

NED  
It looks like we won't be coming to  
an accord. Thank this Merchant and  
let's move along.

Ned and Kaela and the Translator move deeper into the market. Siege and Alexander come into the scene. Siege, huddled over, feigns sickly, coughing, leans on Alexander's shoulder for support. They walk up to a merchant.

ALEXANDER  
 (panicked)  
 Please sir! Do you have any tea?

CHINESE MERCHANT  
 (Perplexed in Chinese)  
 I don't understand.

SIEGE  
 (Coughing intensely)  
 Tea! Green Tea!

Siege grabs a handful of loose tea from a barrel next to the merchant and shakes it in front of his face. The merchant, somewhat understanding this gesture, hurriedly brings siege and Alexander into the back.

INT. CHINESE SHOP - LATER

Ned and his translator stand in front of another merchant. Kalea helps broker a deal.

KALEA  
 Ask him how recently he harvested  
 and from what region.

TRANSLATOR  
 (Chinese)  
 Where and when did you get this  
 tea?

MERCHANT #2  
 (Chinese)  
 From Northern China, it's 3rd  
 Harvest of the year.

NED  
 Did she just say 3rd Harvest? No  
 thank you, next.

INT. A TEA HUT - LATER

Siege sits on the floor of the hut drinking tea. His men stand around the shop looking at barrels of fine green tea. The Chinese merchant from before listens to Siege's tall tale.

SIEGE

(sickly)

I was stricken with the pneumonia on our trip back to your great land. I'm afraid it will be my last time visiting the glory of china!

Siege coughs and doubles over in Alexander's lap. Alexander rubs Siege's back.

ALEXANDER

It's OK captain. We'll make sure your children know of your heroic adventures.

SIEGE

Yes, and should I die before our return home let them know that it was...

Siege turns to the Chinese Merchant.

SIEGE (CONT'D)

What was your name?

CHINESE MERCHANT

Xiao Dao Schuen-gen

SIEGE

Yes... You... were the man to give us the finest tea for our voyage.

The Chinese Merchant beams.

SIEGE (CONT'D)

At a fair price!

XIAO DAO SCHUEN-GEN

OK! 2 for 1.

Siege thrusts out his hand.

SIEGE

Deal!

The two shake. Siege stands up, 'newly reinvigorated' and motions his men to round up all of the barrels. All the men immediately grab barrels and head out of the hut, fully cleaning the merchant out. Siege hands a purse of silver to the merchant. He then coughs again and pounds his chest.

SIEGE (CONT'D)

Excellent tea. I feel better already.

INT. A ZEN TEA GARDEN - LATER

Ned, Kalea and their translator walk in to this homely garden to see WHENWHAY, 16, A younger Chinese girl talking to an employee of hers.

WHENWHAY

(Chinese)

You may start stacking barrels for departure.

TRANSLATOR

(Chinese)

Hello Miss. May we enquire about your tea by the barrel.

WHENWHAY

(Chinese)

I already have my assistant stacking tea for you.

Ned and Whenway bow to each other.

WHENWHAY (CONT'D)

(English)

Ned, it's good to see you.

NED

(In Chinese)

And to you Whenway.

They hug.

KALEA

You speak Mandarin?

NED

A little. I've known Whenway and her mother since Whenway's birth. She inherited this shop last year when her mother passed. It looks nice, you've done well Whenway.

WHENWHAY

Yes. Mother knew how to sell tea but she never quite had the aesthetic to make the shop *feel* like home.

KALEA

I did the same thing when my mother passed. A little makeover of home to honor her and also move on.

WHENWHAY

Yes. Come in, please.

INT. TEA GARDEN - LATER

Ned, Whenway, and Kalea all sit crossed legged on the ground sipping from cups.

NED

I remember when you used to run around this place like it was your own personal gymnasium.

WHENWHAY

You remember when you tried to help me with school work but didn't know how to write Hanzi?

NED

I still don't, but I imagined you've gotten better!

They all laugh at this.

KALEA

How's business been since you've taken over?

WHENWHAY

Once the opium war ended we saw an increase in sales as people felt it was safe to come back into the markets.

NED

This is some of the smoothest Oolong I've had in a long time.

KALEA

I concur, I haven't had anything this good in my life.

WHENWHAY

It's a 6 leaf flush, first harvest.

Ned and Kalea exchange looks.

NED

How much of it do you have?

WHENWHAY

We have it prepared for you already. 1 ton correct?

NED

Yes. And I have a gift of sale for you as well.

Ned's crew members come into the tea hut hauling in crates of ballast.

NED (CONT'D)

I understand that steel is currently made at a faster production rate in London. I figured this would also help fortify not only the business but the home as well.

WHENWHAY

This is too much. Allow me to cut half my fee to make it fair.

NED

If it's more than you need, then sell the rest. I'm sure there are plenty of others here that would pay you a good rate for this.

The three of them stand up together and bow.

WHENWHAY

Safe travels back and write to me about your victory.

NED

Pending victory, we still have a race to finish!

EXT. TAEPING DECK - LATER

KALEA

That was a good call gifting the steel to her. How did you know that she would reduce the price?

NED

I didn't. But we could've chosen anything as ballast, but I brought steel knowing that I would give it to her to help repair damages on their home. It's in her nature to exchange one gift for another.

EXT. CHINESE MARKET - LATER

Siege, Alexander, and other crew members carry barrels of tea back to the ship.

SIEGE

Alex you got this right? I'm going to round in the others and notify them of departure.

ALEXANDER

Yes captain. Let's reconvene on deck.

SIEGE

See you there.

Siege watches them walk away then puts his tattered blanket over himself and walks back into the market.

EXT. CHINESE MARKET - LATER

A crew member is counting silver in his bag and walks by an alleyway. He spots Siege exchanging four bags of silver for a scroll and a crate. Siege stuffs the scroll in his jacket pocket and carries the crate out and sees the crew member.

SIEGE

Oi mate. You need to be on the ship.

CREW MEMBER

Aye sir. Was just rounding up the crew.

SIEGE

Looks like we're all squared away then. Time for voyage.

EXT. ARIEL DECK - LATER

Siege walks on with his crate and brings it to the captain's quarters. He opens the door, places it inside and then locks the door behind him and joins Alexander at the helm.

ALEXANDER

You were almost left behind.

SIEGE

I'm here aren't I? A ship can't sail without it's captain.

ALEXANDER  
What's in the box mate?

SIEGE  
Special Chinese liquor to celebrate  
with once we're declared winners my  
boy.

Siege pats Alexander on the back.

ALEXANDER  
Why didn't you mention that when we  
were going over our trades for the  
day?

SIEGE  
Well I didn't wanna spoil the  
surprise. Just don't tell the  
others.

Siege looks to see that the crew is in place for departure.

SIEGE (CONT'D)  
Ready for high tide!

EXT. THE CHINESE SHORELINE - LATER - AFTERNOON

A line of tea-clipper ships bow up and down along the ocean waves. They wait for high tide. Ned and his crew stand at the ready almost motionless. Siege, aside the top sail looks out over the ocean and along the shipline to meet all the captains eyes. Other captains and ships are seen. George smokes a water pipe and coughs a little. Ned pulls out his sidearm pistol and raises it up into the air. A final wave strikes the line of ships and Ned fires his gun upward.

With the echoing sound of the gunshot all of the ships hoist their topsails to full mast and catch an initial gust of wind which rockets them forward out in to the ocean blue.

EXT. INTERCUTS BETWEEN SHIPS - CONTINUOUS

SIEGE  
Boat Ahoy! Real in backstays.

A group of men on Siege's ship pull in cables, reaching from the stern of the vessel to the mast heads.

KALEA  
Port side unit, batten up the roach  
sail.

A group of men pull a strip used to support the roach of the sail, enabling increased sail area. The boat jolts forward from the wind.

GEORGE

Charge!

George's entire crew becomes rampant in disarray and scrambles to do ambiguous chores. George puffs his pipe again.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

Ah, the sea.

KALEA

You there, Secure the belaying pins on the topmast!

Kalea points to a sailor to immediately secure this task. Ned locks eyes with her and acknowledges her keen commands. Two crew members struggle over a knotted up rope and do a tug of war about it creating a bit of a commotion. A loose mast flaps around in the wind.

NED

Unlay that rope Sailor!

SAILOR

Captain, the knot is intertwined too tightly!

Kalea rushes down with a marlinspike, a tool used for untying knots. She jams the spike into the knot forming a makeshift handle to free the jammed rope. The previously flailing mast pulls taught from the wind.

EXT. THE OPEN OCEAN - LATER

All of the clipper ships cut through the ocean waves aside one another. Some cut in front of others and leave a wake to slap against the bow of the trailing ship. We see an early lead take place between Siege, Ned, and George's ships. One of the unknown and unnamed ships loses a crew member off its side and drops sail to save their man overboard.

EXT. THE EAST CHINA SEA - LATER

Siege's ship rounds a nearby coastal island.

EXT. THE ARIEL - MOMENTS LATER

Crew members brace their masts and sails. Siege stands by a crew member at the helm. Alex clutches the captain's wheel as Siege orchestrates.

CREW MEMBER

(panic)

Captain, we're going too fast, if we don't course correct we'll hit the sandbar off the island's coast.

SIEGE

Hold Steady!

CREW MEMBER

(PANIC!)

Ready the bow for course correction.

SIEGE

I said hold!

All the crew members take pause as Siege gives the wheel to Alexander. Siege then runs to the side of the ship, unchains the shallow anchor and throws it off the starboard side causing the boat to tilt aggressively. The crew members grasp railings and barrels for balance as the ship skids off the ocean waves almost like a power-slide.

INT. THE ARIEL'S CAPTAIN'S QUARTERS - SIMULTANEOUS

Alexander sits at a table writing as a candelabra slides from one side to the other and crashes onto the floor. He shakes his head and resumes writing.

INT. THE TEAPING - CONTINUOUS

Ned and his crew watch Siege's ship pull off this deft move.

CREW MEMBER

Oi, now he's just showing off.

The Taeping drifts further into the China sea to avoid the island and sand bar entirely.

NED

Let Siege have his early lead. It's not easy to lead a race from start to finish.

KALEA

That was an ambitious high stakes  
move, a dangerous one. Probably too  
dangerous for you captain.

Ned turns towards her, shocked and impressed. Smiling with  
disbelief.

NED

I beg your pardon, Kalea. Was that  
a cutting dig?

KALEA

Oh no sir. I was just highlighting  
your methodical captaining style  
against the rash naivety of  
Siege's. He's like a swordfish  
darting madly about where as you're  
like a wise 200 year old sea  
turtle.

Kalea does a small impression of a sea turtle with her hands  
and face.

NED

(chuckling)  
A turtle!?

KALEA

Yes just swimming back to England,  
one stroke at a time.

They chuckle at each other and turn to walk off.

(MID ACT 2 SCENES: SIEGE'S SHIP AND IT'S GROWING DISCONTENT.  
NED AND KALEA FIND THEIR SABOTEUR. THE TYPHOON.)

BACK ABOARD THE ARIEL WE FIND SIEGE AND ALEXANDER CELEBRATING  
AND REMINISCING. ALEX TRIES TO ASK ABOUT THE MYSTERIOUS  
CHINESE BOX THAT SIEGE BROUGHT ON BOARD EARLIER BUT SIEGE  
CHANGES THE SUBJECT.

TIME ELAPSES WITH THE PASSAGE OF NIGHT TO DAY AND THE  
CHANGING SCENERY.

KALEA AND NED CHECK IN WITH EACH OTHER ABOUT THEIR SEARCH FOR  
THE SABOTEUR. NED TELLS KALEA THE STORY OF GORDOS AND THE  
GORDEON KNOT.

UNDER THE COVER OF NIGHT, NED AND KALEA SNEAK OUT TO THE MAIN  
DECK...

AT DAWN WE FIND ALL OF THE CREW MEMBERS OF THE TAEPIING STANDING AROUND A GIGANTIC KNOTTED UP BALL OF ROPE SEVERAL FEET WIDE. NED COMMANDS THE CREW TO UNDO THE KNOT AS FAST AS POSSIBLE. WHEN NO ONE IS ABLE TO DO IT NED COMMANDS THAT THEY CUT IT APART. WHILE WALKING AROUND THE KNOT, NED SEES ONE OF THE CREW MEMBERS HAS AN ORNAMENTAL CHINESE ROPE KNIFE. HE NOTES THIS AND CONTEMPLATES WHAT TO DO. WHEN THE ROPE IS FINALLY CUT DOWN TO PIECES, HE ASKS EVERYONE TO KEEP A PIECE OF IT FOR THEMSELVES, HE IS GOING TO TALK THEM ALL ALL INDIVIDUALLY.

ONE BY ONE KALEA BRINGS CREW MEMBERS IN TO SEE NED. EVERY CREW MEMBER WHEN ACROSS FROM HIM IS SHOWN TWO PICES OF ROPE. THE PIECE FROM THE ORIGINAL ROPE WHICH SNAPPED LEAVING ENGLAND AND THEIR PIECE FROM THE GORDEON KNOT. EVENTUALLY, NED CONFRONTS HIS SABOTEUR. ALREADY KNOWING WHO THEY ARE FROM THE CHINESE ROPE KNIFE, HE JUST HAS TO INSPECT THE ROPE TO CONFIRM IT. NED OFFERS THIS SABOTEUR AMNESTY FROM PUNISHMENT IF HE IS WILLING TO WORK FOR HALF PAY. THE SABOTEUR AGREES. THE SABOTEUR ALSO MENTIONS THAT HE WAS HIRED BY THE ARIEL. CUT TO SIEGE AT THE HELM OF HIS SHIP.

NED GIVES A ROUSING SPEACH ABOVE DECK ABOUT HOW EACH MEMBER OF HIS CREW IS LIKE THAT SMALL PIECE OF ROPE THEY CUT OFF FROM THE KNOT. HOW THEY CAN WORK TOGETHER AND BE LIKE THE ROPE THAT HOLDS UP A FLAG OR WORK AGAINST EACH OTHER AND BE LIKE THE KNOT. IT IS A ROUSING SPEACH ABOUT INCLUSIVITY, HAVING EACH OTHERS BACK, PATIENCE AND FORESIGHT, BROTHER AND SISTERHOOD, HUMANITY, AND WE MOSTLY JUST WANT TO HEAR ASHLEY IMPROVISE THIS MONOLOGUE.

BACK ON THE ARIEL, ALEXANDER SNEAKS INTO SIEGE'S QUARTERS TO INSPECT HIS MYSTERIOUS CHINESE BOX. IT IS A NICE JUXTAPOSITION TO THE INCLUSIVITY THEME OF THE LAST SCENE. ALEX PRYS OPEN THE CHINESE BOX AND INDEED FINDS BOTTLES OF ALCOHOL SITTING ON A BED OF RICE. HE ALSO FINDS THE CAPTAINS FINANCIAL LOG, WHICH CONFUSES HIM AS THE MONEY DOESN'T ADD UP. THE INSPECTION AND SNEAKERY IS CUT SHORT WHEN AN ALARM BELL IS MANUALLY RUNG ABOVE DECK.

EXT. THE ARIEL - EVENING - CONTINUOUS

Alexander swiftly steps up from below deck to see the stormy skies ahead. A gust of wind blows across the top sail and then upward to see Siege hanging on to the crows nest mast.

EXT. THE ARIEL CROW'S NEXT - CONTINUOUS

Siege holds on to the mast poll with one hand and clutches a spyglass with his other. The crows nest BARRELMAN holds on tightly. Through Siege's spyglass we see an enormous storm over the ocean.

BARRELMAN

We should avert course.

Siege points the view of his spyglass toward Ned's ship.

SIEGE

He's not backing down. Neither  
should we.

A gust of wind blows in a sustained billow. The ship rocks below and Siege's captain hat flies off into the wind.

As the captain hat flies through the air we see rain and wind increase eventually whipping the hat through the air into full on hurricane conditions. The hat finally tumbles through the air and lands aboard the deck of Ned's ship, the Taeping now mid storm. Time has passed.

EXT. THE TAEPING - LATER

Rain plummets down on the deck of the ship. Crew members in full rain garb grasp ship rails and ropes to hold on and steady themselves. Ned grasps the Helm tightly.

NED

All hands secure footing and hand holds. No one is going overboard on my watch.

KALEA

Release Portside mast. We need to let some air through or we're going over!

CREW MEMBER

It's jammed!

NED

Cut it!

A crew member slices open a wetted rope and we see the sail fly upwards and recoil.

CREW MEMBER

Captain, we need to turn back!

Ned looks over to Siege's ship in the distance.

EXT. THE ARIEL - CONTINUOUS

Siege holds onto the Helm as well but with a mad/crazed look in his eyes.

EXT. THE TAEPIING - CONTINUOUS

NED

No. He's not turning back. We won't either. But we're not going to be beaten by this storm. All hands ready to lower masts. We need to let the wind pass through.

(END OF ACT 2 SCENES: TYPHOON, SHIPWRECK, COMMUNITY REBUILD, SHOOTOUT.)

THE TYPHOON SCENE CLIMAXES WITH EPIC RAINFALL, SMALL OCEAN TORNADOS, LIGHTNING, THUNDER, AND SIEGE'S SHIP THE ARIEL RUNNING AGROUND ON A SHALLOW SAND BAR. HIS SHIP STRIKES THE BOTTOM OF THE OCEAN SPLITS OPEN, LETTING ON WATER. THEY DECIDE THEY NEED TO ABANDON SHIP OR FIND LAND. THEY SPOT THE SHORELINE IN THE DISTANCE AND SAIL TOWARDS IT.

THE NEXT MORNING, SIEGE'S SHIP IS FOUND SHIPWRECKED OFF THE COAST OF TAIWAN. NED AND KALEA DECIDE TO HEAD BACK AND HELP SIEGE REBUILD.

ON THE BEACH SIEGE'S CREW AND NED'S REBUILD AND THEN HAVE A CAMPFIRE. THE CAMPFIRE TURNS INTO A LITERAL PEACE PIPE/BREAKING BREAD SITUATION WHERE NED AND SIEGE KALEA AND ALEXANDER ALL SHARE SAILING STORIES AND BECOME FRIENDLY.

THE NEXT MORNING THE FRIENDLINESS OF THE NIGHT BEFORE HAS CLEARLY FADED WHEN A MEMBER OF SIEGE'S CREW MAKES A SNIDE AND SEXIST REMARK ABOUT KALEA. NED, COMING TO HER DEFENSE, ASKS SIEGE TO APPROPRIATELY REPRIMAND THEM. SIEGE REFUSES AND THUS BEGINS A QUICK ESCALATION BETWEEN SIEGE AND NED. THE RESULTING CLIMAX IS A MONOLOGUE FROM NED WHERE HE THOROUGHLY EMASCULATES SIEGE IN FRONT OF HIS CREW. SIEGE, TRIGGERED BY THIS PULLS A GUN FROM ONE OF HIS CREW MEN AND FIRES A SHOT AT NED. THOUGH HE MISSES, A GUNFIGHT ENSUES. SOME POINTS TO MAKE ARE EACH GUN IS A SINGLE FIRE PISTOL. NONE OF THESE SAILORS ARE ACTUALLY WELL TRAINED SOLDIERS SO THE GUNFIGHT IS A BIT OF AN AMATEUR HOUR SHIT SHOW. A MAN FROM SIEGE'S CREW DIVES IN FRONT OF HIM TO TAKE A BULLIT FOR HIM. NED AND CREW REACH THE TAEPIING AND SAIL OFF LEAVING THE ARIEL BEHIND.

EXT. FORMOSA BEACH - DAY - LATER

Siege and crew surround a makeshift burial built in the sand as three crew members haul a body wrapped in a tarp down into a newly dug grave. Others create an obituary on parchment while someone starts pouring ale into cups and handing them around for a toast. Siege comes to the head of the grave with shovel in hand.

SIEGE

Brinston was a brother to us all. He was always the first one on and the last one off. I take responsibility for his death and we'll notify his sister that he has passed. Cheers.

Siege raises his shovel for a toast to Brinston but no other crew member raises their cup. He looks around.

ALEXANDER

That's it? Is that all you have to say?

SIEGE

There isn't any time left we need to make course.

Siege starts to head for the boat.

ALEXANDER

Brinston took a bullet for you!

SIEGE

I know that. A major loss, he's-

ALEXANDER

Not good enough.

SIEGE

S'cuse me?

The crew starts to surround Siege.

ALEXANDER

He's a hero. A good man from a good family and he gave everything for the Ariel. He saved you...for a fight that you began! And that's all you have to say about it?

Alexander near tears closes the gap between him and Siege. This is the beginnings of a mutiny and Siege knows it.

SIEGE

What do you want me to say?

The full crew has now surrounded Alexander and Siege.

ALEXANDER

Nothing. You've said enough.

A stare down between the two of them.

ALEXANDER (CONT'D)  
Anchors up! Ready for departure!

The men run to the boat and prepare the ship for voyage while Siege and Alexander look at each other.

ALEXANDER (CONT'D)  
If it's not one thing, it's another with you. The molding deck, the missing numbers, the wrong course of action-

SIEGE  
If we had gotten through the eye we would've taken the lead!

ALEXANDER  
And put everyone in danger? What's the point if we went under?

SIEGE  
I heard no one combat me on it.

ALEXANDER  
In the moment how could we when are doing everything we can to save the ship!

SIEGE  
*I am your captain!*

ALEXANDER  
Not anymore.

Siege lets this sink in. Alexander starts to walk back to the boat.

SIEGE  
Abandoned Ally Request!

Alex rolls his eyes and turns to face Siege.

ALEXANDER  
Your demand?

SIEGE  
My Chinese crate.

ALEXANDER  
The booze. Should've guessed. I'll have someone bring it to you. I wish you well...just not on the Ariel.

EXT. FORMOSA BEACH - SUNSET

Siege finishes creating a makeshift hammock from ropes tied to two trees and sits his crate next to him. He cracks it open with his jack knife to reveal Chinese liquor bottles laying on a bed of rice. He picks up a bottle and inspects the label unable to read it.

SEIGE

Cheers.

Siege opens the cork and drinks the entire bottle. He feels the burn then opens another one. He gets up and hears local fishermen by a dock in the distance and starts working towards the commotion.

EXT. FISHERMEN DOCKS - EVENING

Siege wanders into what is a busy night of fishermen tying their boats up hauling fish. Men hoist bags of large fresh crab. Siege drunkenly stumbles catching himself on the side of one boat. A Taiwanese man shouts at him to get off the boat.

SIEGE

I know! Shut up! There's an earthquake clearly. Brace for impact!

He laughs at himself and falls onto the sand. He picks himself up and notices a man doing a particular knot.

SIEGE (CONT'D)

You sir! What are you doing?

The man doesn't pay any attention to him.

SIEGE (CONT'D)

Hey oriental! I'm asking you a question!

Again no response. Siege watches him do this knot a few times to secure the boat. He's never seen this particular knot before and begins to mime the man's actions. Siege does this a few times until he's familiar with it. He continues his walk until he sees a bonfire. He hears singing from the group and walks towards the circle. Siege becomes fixated on the fire listening to the song and begins to see hallucinations of stormy waters. The rhythm of the song turns into what sounds like a steamboat horn. Siege comes out of his trance to check if he heard an actual horn. He looks out to the ocean and then pulls out his spyglass. There's a ship in the distance. He runs to the water.

SIEGE (CONT'D)

Hey...HEY!

He furiously waves his arms jumping up and down. He runs back to his hammock.

EXT. FORMOSA BEACH - LATER

Siege spots his crate and frantically opens it. There are a few bottles left which he throws out. He then sifts through the bed of rice. He pulls out a dragon engraved flair gun and quickly stuffs it in his jacket pocket. He continues to pull out pieces of a rocket mortar from the bottom of the crate.

SIEGE

Come on... come on! Where are the directions?

He sees the ship sailing in the distance but doesn't seem to be approaching the shore. He finally pulls out a parchment paper with instructions on it, all written in Chinese and a picture of a dragon on it.

SIEGE (CONT'D)

(annoyed)

Of course.

He quickly starts to build the Chinese rocket mortar the best he can while still clearly drunk.

SIEGE (CONT'D)

This goes here and this here.  
Right? No...nope that's wrong. For fucks sake!

He puts the final pieces together and inputs the rocket into the cannon. He pours liquor onto the fuse and puts two rocks together to spark a light. It ignites and he runs behind his hammock and covers his ears. The rocket fires into the sky. Siege looks up as the firework explodes above him and blinds him disorienting him even more. He looks out to the distance and sees the ship slowly turn towards the shore and hears the ship bells ringing in the distance. Siege puts his hands up in the air to celebrate then falls flat on his face.

EXT. ARIEL CAPTAINS QUARTERS - NIGHT

Alexander sits looking through the captains logs and flips through it. He sits back and looks around drinking from a cup of ale. He looks at the globe sitting on the desk and spins it. He pulls out his locket from his pocket and stares down at the picture of him and his mother.

ALEXANDER

I need a sign. Anything to get us  
back on track. What does the  
Taeping lack that we have?

He gets up and grabs the candle from the desk. He walks to  
the bookshelf and picks out a book from it and ruffles  
through the pages. Just then a crew member knocks.

ALEXANDER (CONT'D)

Come in!

CREW MEMBER

Captain. The graveyard shift are in  
need of rest. The group grows  
weary. Shall I notify them of  
rotation?

ALEXANDER

No need. I'll notify them myself.  
I'll go ahead and take lead at  
helm. You should get some rest  
yourself.

CREW MEMBER

Thank you captain.

A beat.

ALEXANDER

Anything else?

CREW MEMBER

Do you think it was the right  
decision to leave Siege marooned on  
Formosa?

ALEXANDER

As a captain, It was best for the  
crew and for the Ariel. If we have  
any chance to catch up to the  
Taeping we need all hands on deck  
more than ever and unity is what  
will keep the team strong and the  
Ariel at full speed.

CREW MEMBER

Of course captain, we are with you.  
Good night sir.

Alexander watches him leave.

ALEXANDER  
(inwardly)  
But as my brother...I'm not sure.

EXT. FORMOSA BEACH - DAWN

The ship has now breached the sand and Siege eagerly awaits. The plank comes down to reveal a man in captains gear walking down. It's George.

GEORGE  
Bonjour captain, never thought I'd see you here!

SIEGE  
How...HOW?

GEORGE  
How did I get to shore? Well with my boat of course.

Siege slaps himself on the face.

SIEGE  
Fine this will do. Mate I appreciate you coming to shore. I need to get back to my ship.

GEORGE  
What happened to yours?

Georges crew members start to file out one by one with bags of silver. Siege takes notice.

SIEGE  
The storm, a few days ago. I was working tirelessly to get the mast in the right direction and the Ariel took a hit and threw me overboard. Alas stranding me here.

GEORGE  
Oh my, how terrible!

SIEGE  
It is indeed. My boat and crew are somewhere up the coast about two days journey away.

GEORGE

I see, we were running low on supplies and food and I saw a firework in the distance and figured it was a sign to make way. Would you like to come aboard the Serica?

SIEGE

You are a true gentlemen captain! I shall humbly work as a deckhand til we arrive back to England.

GEORGE

Non sense! With your expertise of these waters we have a shot to catch up to the others. Maybe even the Taeping. You shall work aside my first mate Jib!

SIEGE

It would be an honor sir.

The crew members who had left with silver are now boarding back the Serica with crates of food. Siege grabs a crate from one of the crew members and walks up the plank.

INT. SERICA CAPTAINS QUARTERS - DAY

George looks at his map and scribes an inventory check in his captains log. His first mate JIB, 80s has a lazy eye and gumming teeth. He's fixing a cracked compass.

JIB

Captain. How are we going to know which way is North without this?

GEORGE

It's magnetic Jib! It always turns to the North Pole due to the Earth's magnetic field.

He comes over to look at Jib and the compass.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

Just replace the glass. The compass itself isn't broken.

Just then theres a knock on the door and then Siege enters.

SIEGE

Captain. Some of the new bags of food have spilled.

Siege secretly places a pocket knife in his pocket.

SIEGE (CONT'D)

We're doing the best we can to save what's not already spoiled. Seems to have been poor stitching causing a rip from the bottom.

GEORGE

Really? Oh no this is bad news we just restocked!

SIEGE

It requires immediate attention.

GEORGE

Come Jib! Grab patch work and sewing needles from below and I'll see what the damage is.

They both leave and Siege waits for the door to close. Siege then goes to the desk to view the course map. Siege pulls out his own map he purchased from the Chinese vendor and cross references it with his own.

SIEGE

If we are here...then the Ariel must be...

He grabs an astrolabe from the desk and a pencil to create a circumference around a point on the map.

SIEGE (CONT'D)

He must've taken the perimeter course due to the winds.

He looks closely at his Chinese map to inspect the drawings of the channel islands. He looks out quickly to the window as the Serica is approaching those same islands. He observes the wind and water current icons drawn on his scroll that aren't on Georges map.

SIEGE (CONT'D)

Now *that* is peculiar.

INT. SERICA SLEEPING QUARTERS - NIGHT

Siege looks around to see crew members sleeping underneath blankets, checking to see if the coast is clear. He sneaks out of bed and out of the room.

EXT. SERICA MAIN DECK - MOMENTS LATER

Siege notices the HELMSMAN at the captains wheel.

SIEGE

I'll relieve you for the night. Go  
get some rest.

The helmsman, relieved to hear this, nods and steps away. Once siege is in the clear he takes the wheel. He pulls out his spy glass and sees the shadow of the channel islands.

SIEGE (CONT'D)

Steady girl. Easy does it.

He starts to steer the ship into that direction. It's a bit quicker than he anticipated and rocks to one side. He quickly evens out the boat. It rocks a little.

INT. SERICA SLEEPING QUARTERS - SIMULTANEOUS

The boat shakes one of the crew members awake.

CREW MEMBER

Oi.

The disgruntled and groggy crew member gets up and starts walking towards the door.

EXT. SERICA MAIN DECK - MOMENTS LATER

Siege, at the helm is approached by an angry crew member.

CREW MEMBER

Siege what's the meaning of this?

SIEGE

We need to make a course  
correction.

CREW MEMBER

We're on track.

SIEGE

Not quite but we shall be soon.  
Head to the crows nest to get a  
look at our range to incoming  
shallow waters.

CREW MEMBER

Has the captain given you approval  
for this?

Siege looks at him.

SIEGE

Just bloody do what I tell you.

INT. SERICA CAPTAINS QUARTERS - DAWN

George wakes. He yawns, stretches and gets out of bed. He looks himself in the mirror and rubs his eyes. He grabs a robe and covers himself and puts on slippers. There's a sudden jolt from the ship which knocks him over. He hears commotion and quickly runs out.

JIB

All hands to starboard side and  
release the mast!

GEORGE

Jib whats the meaning of this?

George looks to the side to see the Serica coasting on the side of the islands.

JIB

Captain take a look!

Jib hands him a spyglass to see rocky waters ahead.

GEORGE

My heavens! How is that possible?

JIB

It's Siege sir! He has been putting  
the crew to work this early morning  
and found a gap between the channel  
to catch wind from land.

GEORGE

I don't understand. These are  
dangerous waters Jib it's too  
shallow. We need to get out of this  
and head back to the perimeter!

JIB

Too late sir we have land on both  
sides of us now.

GEORGE

Where is Siege?

Just then we see a rope drop down from the crows nest and Siege swings down heroically onto the deck.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

We are too close to shore, we're in grave danger!

Siege pulls out his map and hands it to George then takes the ship wheel.

SIEGE

Not quite.

George looks at the Chinese map to see wave curreants drawn that he's never seen before.

SIEGE (CONT'D)

Jib unravel the...well Jib. We are on Port Tack and prepare for heeling!

Jib runs over to the stern and shouts the same orders to other crew members.

GEORGE

Where did you get this Siege?

SIEGE

Made a deal with the devil. It's yours now.

Just then the winds pick up and forces sails to fly full mast. They all experience speed like never before as the crew hold onto crates to not slide over the deck.

SIEGE (CONT'D)

You see captain. Closer lands allows us to benefit from the draft that the inlands create and blow to the coast. Thankfully we have the curreants with us to make up sometime as we are crossing the bar.

GEORGE

But what about the shallow waters? We are too close to the rocks.

SIEGE

Good thing we have an experienced captain taking the wheel then eh?

The Serica now in full speed starts to see the ocean mass appearing again as they are almost out of the channel. George spots something in the distance and runs to the bow.

GEORGE  
Sweet Davy Jones!

He pulls out his spyglass and spots the Ariel. The crew cheers.

GEORGE (CONT'D)  
We've caught up! Heavens above we are almost in-

SIEGE  
Striking distance.

GEORGE  
I beg your pardon?

SIEGE  
We are going to catch up. The Serica is a fragile ship but I'll admit, one of the swiftest due to it's width. It wont be long before we are side by side. And that's when I'll strike.

EXT. ARIEL HELM - SIMULTANEOUS

Alexander looks back to see the Serica gaining on him. A crew member starts laughing.

CREW MEMBER  
Look at the pair on George eh? He must've lost his mind!

ALEXANDER  
That's not George.

Alexander takes the wheel and barks orders to the crew.

ALEXANDER (CONT'D)  
Anchor detail! Ready at the mound!

Three men come to the side of the ship and look to.

CREW MEMBER  
Are we preparing to seize?

ALEXANDER  
We aren't stopping. The Serica is catching up. Ready the plank!

CREW MEMBER  
The plank!?

ALEXANDER  
Prepare to be boarded!

EXT. SERICA DECK - MOMENTS LATER

George is at the wheel while Jib is tying a knot to secure a line. Siege climbs half way up the crows nest and has one hand on the rope and the other around the beam.

GEORGE  
What happens next?

SIEGE  
Wait for my signal! Once I board the Ariel you'll need to move all crates to Port side to create distance quickly and shift weight to one side!

The Serica is now almost side by side as both crews come to the edges of the ship and stare each other down. They wait until they are almost parallel.

SIEGE (CONT'D)  
Now!

George leaves the wheel and cuts the line from underneath Siege creating a launching of the mast and shooting Siege into the air. Siege holds onto the rope for dear life and swings his body in the direction of the Ariel. He rolls onto the Ariel deck and gets up brushing himself off.

EXT. ARIEL DECK - SIMULTANEOUS

CREW MEMBER  
Holy Kraken! Its Siege!

SIEGE  
Gentlemen! Until you have the courage to lose sight of the shore, you will not know the terror of being forever lost at sea. We must be brave enough to face the eye of the storm when it looks directly back into our eyes. The wind and the waves are always on the side of the ablest navigator. I am that navigator!

(MORE)

SIEGE (CONT'D)

Free yourselves of the hope that  
the sea will ever rest and that *I*  
wont either until we reach glory!

The crew cheers. Siege has won his group back as we see the  
Serica depart in the distance. Alexander approaches.

ALEXANDER

A lonely sailor leads to a path of  
selfish acts. An empty harbor and  
never a home.

SIEGE

I had to learn that lesson on my  
own. Thank you for reminding me  
that this crew is my home.

ALEXANDER

Glad to have you back onboard  
brother.

They embrace. The crew claps.

SIEGE

What are you doing just standing  
there? Back to work! We have a race  
to win!

The crew scurries and Siege takes the ship wheel.

TITLE CARD: 80 DAYS LATER

Siege holds on to the captains wheel in the same pose but now  
has a full beard, dreadlocks, and bloodshot eyes.

EXT. THE ARIEL - LATER

SIEGE

There! The Taeping! We've finally  
caught up.

ALEXANDER

Ned is close to the Bishops light.  
We can hail a pilot for the shallow  
waters outside England when we're  
there.

EXT. THE TAEPING - MOMENTS LATER

Ned and Kalea set up a flair alongside one of the rigging  
rails.

Once tied off, Ned lights a fuse popping off a small rocket into the night sky. It bursts with a small flash of light and a sizzle.

EXT. BRITISH WATERS - MOMENTS LATER

A PILOT on a dock sees the flash and steps into a tug boat. Another pilot by his side watches him leave.

EXT. THE ARIEL - MOMENTS LATER

ALEXANDER

We don't have time to sail all the way to the bishops lighthouse and then signal for a pilot. We need to signal now if we're going to overtake the Taeping.

SIEGE

Well then it's a good thing we have this.

Siege pulls out the Chinese dragon flair gun from his breast pocket and fires it into the air. They all suspect a bang that doesn't come.

ALEXANDER

Have you had that in your coat for 3 months?

The flair reaches it's apex and then falls back down to just above the boat. Alexander and Siege look at each other for a beat before the flair explodes in a massive 3 dimensional dome of light and sound. It deafens the crew and blinds everyone around.

EXT. BRITISH WATERS - MOMENTS LATER

The second pilot gets into a faster moving tug boat and heads towards the Ariel.

EXT. THE TAEPING - SIMULTANEOUS

Ned and Kalea and the crew watch as the blast of light darkens in the background. Moments later their tug boat arrives. A sailor throws a line over to the tug and the tug boat pilot secures the line to his boat.

NED

Hello Jeffry!

EXT. PILOT TUG - CONTINUOUS

PILOT JEFFRY  
 Good evening to you captain! To  
 which dock are we headed to  
 tonight?

EXT. THE TAEPING - CONTINUOUS

Ned and Kalea look to each other.

NED  
 Miss Fisher?

KALEA  
 Well The East India dock is closer  
 but the London Dock is more  
 reliable.

NED  
 The East India dock it is then.

KALEA  
 I disagree sir. All my hatred for  
 the EIC aside, the London docks are  
 the correct choice.

NED  
 Your reasoning?

KALEA  
 The time of day sir.

Kalea looks over the side rail to the shore line where we see  
 the ocean slap up against a brick wall. A line of moss  
 stretches several feet up the wall above the oceans surface.  
 Ned looks up at the moon and puts together Kalea's reasoning.

NED  
 (To Pilot)  
 The London Docks, Jeffry!

EXT. PILOT TUG - MOMENTS LATER

Jeffry turns around to his own steering wheel.

PILOT JEFFRY  
 Very good sir!

Jeffry begins singing.

PILOT JEFFRY (CONT'D)  
 Oh I wish I was a sailor man, but  
 I'm just a lowly starfish. When I  
 was just a little lad-

EXT. THE TAEPING - CONTINUOUS

NED  
 Remind me to buy Jeffry a pint at  
 the pub if we win.

EXT. THE ARIEL - MOMENTS LATER

The second tug boat arrives and signals to Siege and Alexander for a line. They both throw over tow lines and the Tug boat pilot collects them both.

ALEXANDER	SIEGE
East India Docks!	East India Docks!

The Pilot nods and the boat begins a tow.

EXT. BRITISH SHORELINE - LATER - SUNRISE

A small group of children stand by the shore. Several of them are napping. Some kick rocks. Arther, Ned's son stretches.

EXT. THE TAEPING - MOMENTS LATER

Ned walks over to the side rail.

NED  
 Arther my boy!

EXT. BRITISH SHORELINE - CONTINUOUS

Arther springs to attention and runs close to the water to hear his father.

ARTHER  
 Papa!

NED  
 Son! You look like you've been  
 taking good care of your mind and  
 body!

ARTHER

Of course! I've missed you daddy!

NED

I've missed you too my boy. Run along now to the London Docks and I'll meet you there.

Arther begins to run off.

NED (CONT'D)

Wait, son! Did you win your race?

Arther, while running, pulls out a gold medal from underneath his shirt. Ned nods and let's out a single tear.

EXT. THE TAEPING - CONTINUOUS

Ned turns to Kalea.

NED

He won his, now let's win ours.

EXT. THE ARIEL - MOMENTS LATER

Siege runs to the side rail.

SIEGE

(Shouting)

Tommy!

EXT. BRITISH SHORELINE - CONTINUOUS

A very sleepy and ratty child TOMMY lies on a bed of moss and remains asleep.

SIEGE

Tommy wake up!

Tommy remains asleep and even let's out a small whimper. Siege holds out the Chinese dragon flair gun and aims it at Tommy.

ALEXANDER

Sir?

Siege shoots the flair gun at the shore with all of the children on it. Again the flair explodes like fireworks around the children. They scatter and yelp to avoid each little rocket. Tommy snaps awake with a shriek, it is as if he woke up to a mortar shell.

## SIEGE

Tommy! East India dock.

Tommy, still shell shocked and disoriented from the traumatic blast looks around in a daze.

## SIEGE (CONT'D)

East! India! dock!

Tommy hears this and immediately comes to, he nods and scampers to his feet and runs off.

## EXT. BRITISH STREETS - EARLY MORNING - LATER

Citizens of London mill the streets as Arther runs across town. We see him keep a steady pace breathing rhythmically.

## EXT. MORE BRITISH STREETS - SIMULTANEOUS

Tommy scampers with poor form, already out of breath.

## EXT. EAST INDIA DOCK - MOMENTS LATER

The tip of The Ariel comes into the dock well below it's surface. The water is very low tide so the dock itself towers above the ship's deck. Siege and Alexander roll a tea barrel to the ship's side rail. Above them, Tommy runs up to the side of the dock and looks down on the boat below.

## EXT. THE TAEPIING - MOMENTS LATER

Ned and Kalea stand at ease as their ship is still being pulled by the tug.

## EXT. EAST INDIA DOCK - MOMENTS LATER

Siege and Alexander hoist up a tea barrel and stretch to reach Tommy's arms above them. Tommy strains to reach the barrel below him.

## TOMMY

I'm sorry. My arms are just too short!

EXT. THE LONDON DOCKS - MOMENTS LATER

Ned and Kalea stand at the bow of the ship as the London Docks come in to view. The tide is noticeably higher than the East India Docks. They smile at each other.

EXT. THE ARIEL - MOMENTS LATER

TOMMY

Throw it up to me.

Siege takes the barrel and tries to chuck it up to Tommy. It bangs up against the dock wall inches below Tommy's hands and comes crashing down next to Siege and Alexander. The Barrel splits open creating A plume of tea which goes everywhere.

EXT. THE TAEPING - MOMENTS LATER

Ned and Kalea see Arther waiting on the London Docks still stretching. Arther Waves.

EXT. THE ARIEL - MOMENTS LATER

Siege and Alexander both scoop up handfuls of loose tea and baseball throw them up to Tommy. As the tea leaves their hands it disperses everywhere with the wind creating a cloud of tea that can't reach tommy. Siege and Alexander cough.

EXT. THE TAEPING - MOMENTS LATER

The ship officially docks and Ned throws over a barrel of tea to Arther. Arther opens the barrel and grabs a small handful which he scoops into a small pouch attached to his hip.

NED

(inwardly)

One step and one breath at a time  
my boy.

Arther runs off.

EXT. THE ARIEL - MOMENTS LATER

Siege packs his dragon flair gun full of tea. He then stands on Alexanders shoulders and holds the gun up to tommy making sure the barrel full of tea does not spill. Tommy reaches down to collect the flair gun but ducks and dodges to not have the gun aim directly at him.

TOMMY

I'm sorry my arms are too short!  
Please don't shoot me!

SIEGE

Just take the gun!

Tommy stretches and finally receives the gun full of tea. He dumps out some of the tea into his hand and runs off into the town.

EXT. BRITISH STREETS - EARLY MORNING

Arther rounds a corner and runs at a steady pace. Beads of sweat roll down his face.

EXT. BRITISH STREETS - EARLY MORNING

Tommy runs with loose tea in his bare hand. His running form is sloppy and uneven.

Arther rounds another corner, still keeping pace.

Tommy scampers around a corner too quickly. He holds his weight up on a wall, takes a few heaving breaths and continues to sprint.

Arther and Tommy both round a final corner at the same time to meet and run up the same street side by side. Arther's form is perfect and Tommy's is ridiculous.

EXT. THE SURLY SEA FAIRER'S PUB - CONTINUOUS

The master ceremonies from earlier stands outside the front of the pub with a tea testing kit. Some of the waitresses and servers from before set up a table with several empty tea cups. There is a bag of silver sitting next to a trophy with a ship engraved on it.

EXT. BRITISH STREETS - EARLY MORNING - MOMENTS LATER

Tommy and Arther run neck and neck towards the table outside the pub which appears off in the distance about 50 yards away. Tommy trips and falls as the two step onto the main cobblestone street. Tommy skins his knee but doesn't drop the tea in his hand. Arther continues to run ahead of him but then stops to run in place. He looks at Tommy, back at the finish line, and back to Tommy. Arther then turns to help Tommy back to his feet and the two boys race towards the finish line.

EXT. THE SURLY SEA FAIRER'S PUB - CONTINUOUS

The MC and Servers all watch this action with deadpan emotionless faces.

Tommy and Arther, step away from the table, both dive towards it in super slow motion. Their arms both stretched out as far as they can reach.

SHOT: Arther's arm, with the tea pouch in it reaches the table as Tommy's arm with the loose leaf tea in hand falls short and misses.

Tommy let's out a whimper on the ground. Arther beams. The MC opens up the pouch and lifts out some tea with a silver spoon. He inspects it with a monocle and sniffs it. He then places some tea in hot water, shakes it in a vile, and pours it into a tea cup. He then takes a sip of the tea and suckles it between his lips for a grossly long amount of time. After a moment, he swallows it.

MC

Perfection. Boy, what ship do you represent?

ARTHER

The Taeping, sir.

MC

Then I declare the taeping the winner of the Great Tea Race of 1866!

A small crowd cheers as the MC lifts Arther's arm up in the air.

(ACT 3 FALLING ACTION)

ARTHER, NOW WITH HIS MOTHER ELEANOR IS MET BY NED AND KALEA. NED SEES THE TROPHY WITH ARTHER. HE KNOWS HE HAS WON. HE AND ELEANOR PRAISE THEIR BOY. ELEANOR AND NED EMBRACE AS THIS WAS HIS FINAL VOYAGE. KALEA LOOKS FOR HER GRANDFATHER PORTHOS WHO IS NOWHERE TO BE SEEN.

SIEGE AND ALEXANDER SHOW UP AND ADMIT DEFEAT. SIEGE ACKNOWLEDGES THE ERROR OF HIS WAYS. ALEXANDER REPRIMANDS NED'S SABATOUR AS IT BECOMES EVIDENT THAT ZAN HIRED HIM UNBEKNOWNST TO SIEGE. SIEGE CONFRONTS ALEXANDER ABOUT THIS TREACHERY BUT ULTIMATELY FORGIVES HIM. NED, TOUCHED BY THIS MOMENT ANNOUNCES THAT HE WILL SET AN EQUAL PRICE OF TEA THAT FAIRLY REFLECTS THE EFFORTS PUT IN BY ALL OF THE TEA CLIPPER SHIPS. KALEA FINDS HER GRANDFATHER IN THE CROWD. EVERYONE WALKS OFF INTO THE SUNSHINE OF LONDON. TOMMY, THE BOY WHO RACED AT THE END APOLOGIZES TO SIEGE FOR HIS SHORT ARMS.