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450 Seventh Ave, Suite 809
New York, NY 10123

toll-free phone: 1-866-NEW-PLAY
email: info@playscripts.com
website: www.playscripts.com

Cast of Characters

CAPTAIN COMPOSURE

MERMAID

SEA MONSTER

SEA MONSTER'S WIFE

PIRATE #1

PIRATE#2

PIRATE#3

CHAPLAIN

DEVIL

ANGEL

CURLY PETE

LE MEW

FRENCH SAILOR #1

FRENCH SAILOR#2

FRENCH SAILOR #3

THE LOST SOUL OF CAPTAIN COMPOSURE

by Tim Kochenderfer

BASED ON THE PLAYLET "LEVIATHAN"
BY THORNTON WILDER

Scene 1

(The Sea. It is the morning after a shipwreck. Debris is scattered all along the surface of the water. CAPTAIN COMPOSURE, a pirate with a stereotypical eye patch and peg leg, floats unconscious on a plank. A MERMAID enters accompanied by a SEA MONSTER. The MERMAID combs through the wreckage as the SEA MONSTER talks.)

SEA MONSTER. ...this morning, I see this octopus. I'm thinking, good, finally a meal. I'm sneaking up on him when suddenly a plank lands on my head. Knocks me out cold. I come to, there's the octopus. Turns out he had administered first aid to me. So now I'm feeling guilty. I tell him "thanks, this is kind of awkward though because I was planning on eating you." Obviously now I can't, so I turn to leave when another plank comes falling down and lands on the octopus. Now he's looking at me like, you want to reciprocate here? I'm like, you got eight legs, free yourself. Obviously I didn't say that, but I'm thinking it. Anyway, I walk over and lift up the plank, the octopus is fine but now he's looking at me like "aren't you going to administer first aid to me?"

MERMAID. *(Not paying attention:)* Mmm hmm.

SEA MONSTER. This has been a never-ending nightmare. *(Grabs a piece of debris:)* This debris has been raining down on us all night! I can't eat, I can't sleep! My whole family has been starving since this happened! And the water, it's so polluted with rum, my kids can't drink it! My wife has been drunk since this morning!

(The SEA MONSTER'S WIFE stumbles on stage, drunk and slurring her speech:)

SEA MONSTER'S WIFE. *(To SEA MONSTER:)* You think you're soooooo great cause you hang out with mermaids, but you're nothin'! *(Stumbles over debris:)* Whoops!

(The SEA MONSTER'S WIFE trips and stumbles off stage:)

SEA MONSTER. You've got to help us!

MERMAID. Just...shut up for a second! (*Picks up two pieces of debris:*) What you've got here is a shipwreck. Pretty obvious what happened. The crew must have set sail and forgot to assemble the ship. It eventually fell apart. (*Picks up a flag bearing a skull and crossbones:*) Judging from this flag, the sailors were skeletons. Skeletons can't steer ships.

SEA MONSTER. Can't you do something about it?

MERMAID. I'm not going to teach them! Skeletons are scary!

SEA MONSTER. No! This wreckage! My family hasn't eaten in...

MERMAID. (*Notices CAPTAIN COMPOSURE:*) What is this? (*Walks to CAPTAIN COMPOSURE, excited. The SEA MONSTER follows:*) He's still breathing! I've never seen one of these things alive! You know what this means? He still has the thing they call a soul! I've always wanted a soul! It's what separates us from them!

SEA MONSTER. Fascinating. Think I could, um... Think I could eat him?

MERMAID. No!

SEA MONSTER. Come on! I'm starving!

(The SEA MONSTER'S WIFE stumbles back on stage:)

SEA MONSTER'S WIFE. (*To SEA MONSTER:*) Hey! Levi! Did you tell her about that octopus that bosses you around?! Yeah, that's right, my husband, the big Sea Monster, bossed around by an octopus. That octopus is twice the man you are! At least he's got a job! (*Changes tone:*) Love you honey! Tell the mermaid I said hi! (*Looks off stage:*) Hey look, (*makes sarcastic quotes with her fingers*) 'a great white shark.' (*Yells to shark off stage:*) You think you're so great but you're nothin'!

(The SEA MONSTER'S WIFE stumbles off:)

SEA MONSTER. Oh, gosh! Honey! (*To MERMAID:*) You got to help us!

(The SEA MONSTER runs out after his wife. The MERMAID is still mesmerized by CAPTAIN COMPOSURE:)

MERMAID. Wow. All my life I've wanted three things. A soul, dark hair and the ability to complete lists. I wonder where he keeps it. They say the soul is the most precious thing a creature can possess. I've heard you can sometimes see it in the eyes, that it communicates love and...

CAPTAIN COMPOSURE. (*Awakens:*) Yarr!!!! Shut up lass! I be tryin' to sleep and my dream was just gettin' interesting!

MERMAID. You are about to drown!

CAPTAIN COMPOSURE. Arrrrrrrggghh!! Thanks for spoilin' the ending!

MERMAID. You are shipwrecked and stranded on the ocean.

CAPTAIN COMPOSURE. Yarr! Stop narratin' me dreams! I... (*Sits up:*) Sorry lass, ye didn't deserve that. Name's Jack. Cap'n Jack Shortfuse Composure. I... (*Gets a good look at the MERMAID:*) Yarr, what manner of creature be you?

MERMAID. I am a mermaid, princess of the sea. You are shipwrecked and about to drown!

CAPTAIN COMPOSURE. Shipwrecked? Yarr, tis true! Last thing I remember we had just plundered the coast of San Juan. Me first mate, Curly Pete, saw a horrific sight on the horizon. Me old nemesis, Antoine Le Mew, accompanied by the French Armada fast approachin' from the west. Pete suggested we blow up our own ship, make 'em think we already been attacked so they'd leave us alone. I told Pete, 'yes, we could blow up our own ship, but we'd lose our treasure and our lives in the process.' Well apparently, all Pete heard was 'yes, we could blow up our own ship' cause next thing I know I be unconscious and bein' bothered by a mermaid.

MERMAID. Silence! I'm not interested in your stories. I've heard you creatures possess something called a soul. Allow me to see it and I may save your life.

CAPTAIN COMPOSURE. Yarr, I don't know what ye be talkin' bout lass. Hows bouts I show ye me tattoo instead. It be of the King Charles Apology, a legendary ship said to be invisible...

MERMAID. I want to see your soul! It's the one thing you have that we don't!

CAPTAIN COMPOSURE. What about legs? Ye don't have those.

MERMAID. Whatever, two things.

CAPTAIN COMPOSURE. No feet either.

MERMAID. Shut up! Give me your soul and I will save your life. I will lead you to shore on a tropical island paradise.

CAPTAIN COMPOSURE. Listen, lass, a soul is a like the land of China. Lots of people talk bout it, but no one knows if it actually exists.

MERMAID. That's not true! Give me your soul and in return I will summon your shipmates from the bottom of the ocean. (*Removes shell from around her neck:*) Using the Shell of Atlantis I shall raise all

of the treasures lost in the depths of the sea and give them to you. You shall become the prince of the island. The whole world shall be yours.

CAPTAIN COMPOSURE. Yarr, I said... Wait... All the treasure in the sea ye say?

MERMAID. All of it.

CAPTAIN COMPOSURE. Whole world, mine ye say?

MERMAID. Figuratively speaking.

CAPTAIN COMPOSURE. Figuratively speaking ye say?

MERMAID. Yes! Stop wasting time! You're about to drown.

CAPTAIN COMPOSURE. Arrr, well lass, it just so happens... (*Feels around his body for an object:*) It just so happens that I do happen to have me soul on me. (*Pulls out a canteen and shakes it:*) It's ah, tis in here!

MERMAID. Give it to me! Give it to me and I will throw in the Shell of Atlantis. Wear it and you will attract all of the wealth in the sea.

CAPTAIN COMPOSURE. All of the wealth in the sea ye say?

MERMAID. Shut up! Do we have a deal?

CAPTAIN COMPOSURE. Yarr, harr, harr, yes lass, we have a deal! Now let's hurry this up, I be gettin' bored.

MERMAID. How could you possibly be getting bored. You're about to drown and you're talking to a mermaid who is about to give you all the... Never mind, we have a deal.

(CAPTAIN COMPOSURE hands over the canteen. The MERMAID hands over the shell.)

CAPTAIN COMPOSURE. Yarr, harr, harr!

Scene 2

(A tropical island. CAPTAIN COMPOSURE sits at a table with PIRATE #1, PIRATE #2, PIRATE #3, and the CHAPLAIN. CAPTAIN COMPOSURE sits at the head in a throne:)

PIRATE #1. ...there I was, sinkin' to the depths of the ocean when suddenly I'm fallin' straight down the pits of Hades. Landed on the tail of Lucifer himself. The devil lets out a yelp and bumps his head, which me thinks embarrassed him in front of his friends. I tried apologizin' to him, but as I was sayin' I was sorry, me hand gestures

got out of control and I knocked his beer out of his hand. Satan started lecturin' me sayin' I was makin' his life miserable and next thing I know I be here, alive on a tropical paradise surrounded by more treasure than me's ever seen and it's all because Cap'n Composure was willin' to sell his soul for his friends.

ALL BUT COMPOSURE. Aye!

CAPTAIN COMPOSURE. Arr, that's not exactly...

PIRATE #2. Yarr, in Davey Jones locker I was when I was visited by a ghost! Told me to heed his words, I had one chance to save me soul.

PIRATE #3. Yarr, what did he say lad?

PIRATE #2. I don't know. I just started runnin'. I be terrified of ghosts. Chased me for miles until he finally run out of breath and collapsed. Then suddenly I be here, safe from the threat of ghosts all cause Cap'n Composure sold his soul to make us all rich!

ALL BUT COMPOSURE. Aye!

CAPTAIN COMPOSURE. Nay! I did not, contrary to what ye may wish to believe, sell me soul, let alone sell me soul to save your lives! In fact, I was thinkin' when our ship blew up that one of the few benefits of the blast was that maybe I wouldn't have to see the lot of ye ever again, but here ye are!

PIRATE #1. Aye, a Cap'n Composure with a soul would never say anything so cruel. Back when ye had a spirit ye was always concerned about our feelin's and talkin' bout how much we meant to ye.

CAPTAIN COMPOSURE. Yar, no I didn't! Ye be makin' me uncomfortable!

PIRATE #3. Arr, men with souls talk about their feelin's, Captain. It's in the pirate's code!

CAPTAIN COMPOSURE. Yarr, no it isn't.

PIRATE #3. Yes it is! I believe the code says a pirate should always talk about his feelin's with the crew no matter what the situation. Whether it be a hurricane or a sea battle...

CAPTAIN COMPOSURE. Arrr, shut up! Like I told ye before, I didn't sell me soul, I tricked a mermaid into tradin' all the wealth in the sea for an old rum canteen I told her contained me soul.

PIRATE #1. Lying Cap'n? Doesn't seem like ye.

CAPTAIN COMPOSURE. Seems exactly like me!

PIRATE #3. Arr, ye've changed Cap'n. Ye seem to no longer love things appreciated by the soul. Food, drink, ye even left the room durin' Brussel Sprout Roberts lute playin' the other day.

CAPTAIN COMPOSURE. That's because Brussel Sprout Roberts be a horrible lute player!

PIRATE #2. (*Upset:*) Yarr! Ye take that back!

(Runs off stage, crying.)

PIRATE #1. Ye see that! Ye hurt his feelin's!

PIRATE #3. Yarr, it be the consensus of the crew that thy soul indeed was inside that canteen ye sold to the leprechaun.

CAPTAIN COMPOSURE. Mermaid! It was an empty canteen and nothin' more!

PIRATE #3. Yarr, let's ask the chaplain. (*To CHAPLAIN:*) Ruthless Bill, what do you think?

CHAPLAIN. I told you, don't call me Ruthless Bill!

PIRATE #3. Yarr, that's what ye get for becomin' a chaplain on a pirate ship!

CHAPLAIN. I didn't 'become' a chaplain on a pirate ship, you kid-napped me.

PIRATE #3. Stop bringin' up the past! The past is in the past! Tell us what ye think of Composure's predicament.

CHAPLAIN. What do I think? I think that if a man gains the world but loses his soul in the process, what has he gained?

(The PIRATES all look at each other, trying to figure the answer out.)

PIRATE #1. Is the answer 'the world'?

CHAPLAIN. No! It's a rhetorical question!

PIRATE #3. Ah! I was goin' to say he gains a rhetorical question.

CHAPLAIN. That's not the answer!

CAPTAIN COMPOSURE. (*Furious:*) Yarr! I did not lose me soul! I traded a canteen for more treasure than can fit on this island and I just happened to get your lives back as a side effect! (*Draws sword:*) Now leave my sight before I cure that side effect with me sword!

(PIRATE #1 starts crying and runs off. PIRATE #3 sits, waiting for COMPOSURE to apologize.)

Why are you still here?!

PIRATE #3. *(Trying to coax COMPOSURE into an apology:)* I'm sorry crew for losin' my cool...

CAPTAIN COMPOSURE. Yarr, I'm not apologizin'! Now leave!

(PIRATE #3 and the CHAPLAIN exit.)

This be the dumbest crew I've ever led and I've led over three crews.

(Enter a DEVIL. He is dressed as a stereotypical devil, complete with horns, cape and pitchfork, except he wears an eye patch and is also dressed as a pirate.)

DEVIL. That is true matey. Perhaps ye should kill the lot of 'em. Have this tropical paradise and all that treasure to yourself.

(Enter an ANGEL. She is dressed as a stereotypical angel but is also dressed as a pirate.)

ANGEL. Yeah, sounds like a great idea. But how would we pull it off?

DEVIL. Yarr, stop agreein' with me! We're not supposed to agree with each other!

ANGEL. What? I be a pirate too!

DEVIL. So what? Ye be supposed to protect him and your activity be makin' me question whether I'm doin' me job correctly.

ANGEL. Don't blame me. You always talk first.

CAPTAIN COMPOSURE. By Poseidon's beard, where did ye come from?

DEVIL. *(Startled:)* Ah!

ANGEL. Ye can see us lad? How is it that ye can see us?

DEVIL. He must be dead. Hmm. Let's move on then.

(The ANGEL and the DEVIL turn to leave.)

CAPTAIN COMPOSURE. Yarr, I'm not dead!

(The ANGEL and DEVIL turn back.)

ANGEL. Wait, wait, wait, he isn't dead is he? Aye, yet he completely lacks a soul.

DEVIL. Yarr, ye be right!

ANGEL. Now who be agreein' with who?

DEVIL. Arr, that doesn't apply to this situation!

CAPTAIN COMPOSURE. Arr! I do too have a soul! *(To DEVIL:)* Try temptin' me!

DEVIL. Okay, well, um, why don't you... Um... Why don't you covet...hmm. (*Thinks:*) Bear false witness maybe to um...

(*The ANGEL and COMPOSURE stare at him.*)

Yarr, I can't just do it on command!

ANGEL. (*To COMPOSURE:*) Sorry lad. Ye don't have a soul. Tis nowhere to be found.

DEVIL. Yar, he be right lad.

ANGEL. See, ye be agreein' with me again!

DEVIL. Yarr, I wish I never said anything to you about that!

ANGEL. Arr, clearly, cause you were wrong.

CAPTAIN COMPOSURE. Hey! Back to me!

DEVIL. Sorry lad, gotta move on.

(*The ANGEL and the DEVIL argue as they exit the stage.*)

ANGEL. Hey, now that we've got some free time, you want to hang out?

DEVIL. No! I told you no!

ANGEL. Yarr, why not?

DEVIL. Cause I'll get fired!

ANGEL. Some friend.

DEVIL. We're not friends!

(*Exit ANGEL and DEVIL.*)

CAPTAIN COMPOSURE. Yarr, arr, yarr, either I be losin' me mind or that lousy, no good mermaid tricked me into handin' over that canteen! Not only do I have nothin' to drink rum out of, but she apparently has me soul as well. Aye but that be a temporary condition. I will exact a swift revenge on that lass! Course, headwinds are strong, that will slow us down. Also, don't know where she is, that may also decrease the swiftness.

(*Enter ANGEL.*)

ANGEL. Forgot me keys sorry.

(*ANGEL looks around for keys.*)

CAPTAIN COMPOSURE. What keys?

ANGEL. I carry around keys.

CAPTAIN COMPOSURE. To what?

ANGEL. Pay no attention to me lad. Pretend I'm not here.

CAPTAIN COMPOSURE. Yarr. Fine! *(To self:)* Tomorrow we set course for Mermaid Cove!

ANGEL. Ooo Mermaid Cove. Sounds lovely. What do they have there?

CAPTAIN COMPOSURE. Mermaids.

ANGEL. Yarr, sounds delightful. Have ye been there before?

CAPTAIN COMPOSURE. No! *(Regains composure:)* Tomorrow we set course for Mermaid Cove!

ANGEL. Is it nice there?

CAPTAIN COMPOSURE. Listen, lass, I'm tryin' to wrap this up so I can set me plan into motion and ye be holdin' me up!

ANGEL. Sorry, sorry don't mind me.

CAPTAIN COMPOSURE. Yarr... *(Regains composure:)* Tomorrow, I launch me quest to regain me soul! To Mermaid's Cove!

(COMPOSURE tries to exit.)

ANGEL. Where exactly is that?

CAPTAIN COMPOSURE. Yarr, stop extendin' me inner monologue! To Mermaid Co...

ANGEL. Is that near the Indies?

CAPTAIN COMPOSURE. Stop stealin' me last word. To Mermaid Cove!

(COMPOSURE covers his ears and runs out. The ANGEL shrugs and continues looking for her keys. End Scene.)

Scene 3

(PIRATE #1, PIRATE #3, and CURLY PETE stand on the deck of a ship.)

PIRATE #3. Explain to me again why we be here?

PIRATE #1. Well, several years ago our mommies and daddies decided they be wantin' kids and...

PIRATE #3. Yarr! No! I meant explain to me how is it we it is that we be on this voyage.

PIRATE #1. Yarr, well long answer, thousands of years ago man saw the sea as somethin' impassible, until he started realizin' the laws of buoyancy.

PIRATE #3. Arr! Short answer!

PIRATE #1. Short answer, the end.

PIRATE #3. Arrr! That be too short!

(Enter CAPTAIN COMPOSURE.)

PIRATE #1. Yarr, we been goin' at this for hours. Why don't ye just ask the Cap'n!

PIRATE #3. Yarr, Cap'n Composure, just where exactly be we headed?

CAPTAIN COMPOSURE. Mermaid Cove lad.

PIRATE #3. *(Horried!)* Mermaid Cove! That territory be a death trap!

CAPTAIN COMPOSURE. Yarr, that's what ye said bout suicide island, but we still here, ain't we?

(Enter PIRATE #2.)

PIRATE #3. 15 members of our crew were killed! *(To PIRATE #2:)* Composure be takin' us to Mermaid Cove!

PIRATE #2. Mermaid Cove! Ye said we was goin' to Pie Island!

CAPTAIN COMPOSURE. Look, lad, no such island exists and if it did, why wouldn't we just stay where we were and make a lot of pies?

PIRATE #3. Yarr, ye goin' to retrieve your soul, ain't ya Cap'n! Of all the selfish... We had everything back on that island! Jewels, gold, rum, all the sea water we could drink...

PIRATE #1. We didn't have women.

PIRATE #3. Well no, we didn't have women, but...

PIRATE #1. Didn't have many vegetables. No real good sewer system either.

PIRATE #3. *(To PIRATE #1:)* Shut up! Point bein' that we left it all behind cause the Cap'n here misses his soul.

PIRATE #2. Yarr, pretty hypocritical of ye Cap'n. Remember that time I lost me hat after the battle of the Pacific and ye refused to go back for it?

PIRATE #3. And now we be riskin' our very lives in the waters of the dreaded mermaid.

PIRATE #1. Aye, the dreaded mermaid! Legend has it they dwell at the bottom of the ocean, that the creatures prefer a diet of seaweed and in the hot sun they seek the shelter of rocks!

(Everyone stares at PIRATE #1:)

PIRATE #3. What a...boring legend!

PIRATE #1. Arr! I didn't say it was interesting!

CAPTAIN COMPOSURE. Ye lads be forgettin' who negotiated the reunion of thy bodies to thy souls the mornin' after Curly Pete blew up our ship!

CURLY PETE. Would ye like me to blow up the ship again Cap'n?

CAPTAIN COMPOSURE. Arr! No Pete!

CURLY PETE. Was that a no as in yes, or no as in maybe later?

CAPTAIN COMPOSURE. Arr lad! For the last time, I never have, nor will I ever, order ye to blow up the ship we be standin' on. Ye be a liability to this...

(Lights up revealing the MERMAID sitting on the deck of the ship.)

MERMAID. Welcome back to Mermaid Cove, Captain Composure.

ALL BUT MERMAID. *(Startled:)* Ah!

PIRATE #1. Cap'n! Where did M-E-R-E-M-E-A...Yarr, I can't spell mermaid! Where did she come from?

MERMAID. And what is it that you're searching for in these parts?

CAPTAIN COMPOSURE. Yarr, how did ye board our vessel?

MERMAID. I've been here the entire evening.

CAPTAIN COMPOSURE. Yarr, then why are ye askin' what we be searchin' for? We been talkin' bout it this whole time.

MERMAID. Ah yes, your soul. I'm afraid I traded it.

CAPTAIN COMPOSURE. Yarr! What do ye mean ye traded it?

MERMAID. I mean I gave it in exchange for another commodity.

CAPTAIN COMPOSURE. Yarr! I know what 'traded' means! Who did ye trade it to?

MERMAID. I came upon another sailor, a gentlemen I believe you mentioned in our last meeting. Antoine Le Mew I think was his name.

CAPTAIN COMPOSURE. What?!

MERMAID. When I told him I had Captain Composure's soul he seemed very interested. I told him I'd trade it to him for his sense of rhythm. I've always wanted to dance!

CAPTAIN COMPOSURE. Arr! Ye don't even have legs!

MERMAID. Thanks for bringing that up.

CAPTAIN COMPOSURE. So ye traded me soul to me archenemy?!

MERMAID. Yep. Said he planned to dig a pit all the way to Hell and drop it in.

CAPTAIN COMPOSURE. Yarr, that sea-suckin' suck of the sea! He better not!

MERMAID. Yes, well first he and his crew mates were kicking it around. I think one of them spilled something on it.

CAPTAIN COMPOSURE. (*Furious:*) What?!

MERMAID. Anyway, I recommended they stop by that island I gave you. Then I told him about all of the treasure you now had and about how I gave you the Shell of Atlantis and how it will bring you much, much more treasure... well he headed right on over.

PIRATE #3. Yarr, wonderful! First she sells your soul, then she gets our ship all slimy, now she be givin' away our treasure!

MERMAID. Hey! I'm not slimy!

CAPTAIN COMPOSURE. Yarr, ye treacherous wench! Me grandfather always told me, never trust a mermaid! Or a regular maid. Or women in general really.

MERMAID. But you did trust me and here you are.

CAPTAIN COMPOSURE. (*To the PIRATES:*) Yarr, throw her over boys and see to it that she gets a belly-smacker when she lands in the water!

MERMAID. You wouldn't dare!

(The PIRATES grab the MERMAID and carry her off.)

CAPTAIN COMPOSURE. Yarr, so Le Mew thinks he's goin' to get away with takin' me soul and me treasure?

PIRATE #1. No way Cap'n! No way he'll get away with both those things. One of them, yeah I can see that... Maybe both of them... but no way he'll get away with addin' a third thing!

CAPTAIN COMPOSURE. Shut up lad! Yarr, we meet Le Mew at dawn. Reverse course! Back to Composure Island!

PIRATE #3. Composure Island?!

CAPTAIN COMPOSURE. That's right.

PIRATE #3. When did we name it that?

CAPTAIN COMPOSURE. We didn't name it, I did!

PIRATE #3. We should all have had a say in that me thinks, Cap'n.

PIRATE #1. Yarr, I vote we rename it 'Everybody's Island!'

CAPTAIN COMPOSURE. Yarr, no! Now shut up and set course to Composure Island!

Scene 4

(The Island. LE MEW, who speaks with a thick French accent, approaches with FRENCH SAILOR #3 while FRENCH SAILOR #1 and FRENCH SAILOR #2 dig.)

LE MEW. What is this? You have been digging for hours and your progress is this? This is a disgrace, no?

FRENCH SAILOR #1. No.

LE MEW. *(Angry:)* Yes it is! I told you to dig a hole to Hades by sun-down! I return hours later and why do I not see a pit miles deep into the Earth?!

FRENCH SAILOR #2. It is perhaps, Captain Le Mew, that we are on the metric system?

LE MEW. The metric system doesn't enter into it! This is an outrage! This spot I am standing on! It is deeper than your hole!

FRENCH SAILOR #1. We are sailors Captain. We know not how to dig.

LE MEW. It is a basic skill!

FRENCH SAILOR #1. With all due respect Captain, there is a cliff right over there. We are starting out well above sea level. Why not start off at the beach where...

LE MEW. Enough! I have had enough of this complaining! My other men, they are on the other side of the island no? They are digging a hole very quickly. They are digging so fast the sand is closing over them, but do they complain? No. Do they even stop their work? No. We haven't seen them for hours.

FRENCH SAILOR #3. Was that the west side of the island Captain Le Mew?

LE MEW. I believe so.

FRENCH SAILOR #3. Did not our surveyors believe that to be entirely consisting of quicksand?

LE MEW. What is the relevance?

FRENCH SAILOR #3. Nothing just, they're definitely dead that's all.

LE MEW. We have, gentlemen, in our possession the soul of the pirate we've been hunting for the past seven years! A pirate who has raided our ports, faked his own death and made fun of our accents!

FRENCH SAILOR #2. Yes, I remember that. That was awful.

LE MEW. I've learned that Captain Composure, as he's called, has in his possession the Shell of Atlantis, a magical shell that attracts treasure to you despite your location. Composure will no doubt come searching for his soul. When he arrives, we shall claim the shell and force him to watch as we drop his soul into the fires of Hell! Ha ha ha!

FRENCH SAILOR #1. Then I say we shoot him too.

LE MEW. Hey! I do the planning around here! Got it?!

(Enter CAPTAIN COMPOSURE, PIRATE #1, PIRATE #2 and PIRATE #3 with swords drawn.)

CAPTAIN COMPOSURE. Yarr! The only thing you'll be plannin' Le Mew is thy own death!

PIRATE #1. *(Excited:)* Good one Cap'n!

CAPTAIN COMPOSURE. Quiet!

PIRATE #1. Yarr, what? I be tryin' to support ye!

CAPTAIN COMPOSURE. Yarr, yes, but ye be robbin' the impact of me clever lines by pointin' them out!

LE MEW. Well, well, well, if it isn't Cap'n Composure.

CAPTAIN COMPOSURE. *(Mocks accent:)* Well, well, well, if it isn't Cap'n Composure.

FRENCH SAILORS. *(Offended:)* Ooooo!

LE MEW. That is the last straw Composure! *(Holds up canteen:)* I have in my possession your soul. I intend to force you to watch as we drop it into Hades. Now, if you'll just refrain from attackin' us and wait a few hours while we dig...

CAPTAIN COMPOSURE. Yarr! I believe I'll be the one sendin' ye to the fires first! *(To PIRATES:)* Attack, boys!

(The PIRATES are hesitant.)

PIRATE #3. Arr, but Cap'n, they got shovels!

CAPTAIN COMPOSURE. So what?!

PIRATE #1. Shovels be big.

CAPTAIN COMPOSURE. Yes but they be not an effective weapon!

PIRATE #3. If used properly, perhaps...

CAPTAIN COMPOSURE. You have swords!

PIRATE #3. Yes, and...

CAPTAIN COMPOSURE. And use them!

LE MEW. Attack, men!

(The FRENCHMEN attack the PIRATES with shovels, disarming them.)

PIRATE #3. See, what did I tell you, Cap'n? Shovels are dangerous.

CAPTAIN COMPOSURE. Yarr, idiot!

(COMPOSURE pulls out his sword and holds it to LE MEW.)

Now, Cap'n Le Mew, if ye'd be so kind as to hand over me soul.

LE MEW. Captain Composure, let us not be so savage huh? How about we make a trade? Your soul and the lives of your men in exchange for the Shell of Atlantis.

CAPTAIN COMPOSURE. Yarr, hows about the Shell of Atlantis in exchange for me soul, and ye dispose of me men?

PIRATE #3. Hey!

LE MEW. Deal.

(LE MEW reaches out as if to hand the canteen over to COMPOSURE. COMPOSURE hands over the Shell of Atlantis. LE MEW grabs it and keeps COMPOSURE's canteen.)

Yoink!

CAPTAIN COMPOSURE. Hey!

LE MEW. So it seems the tables have turned, huh Captain?

CAPTAIN COMPOSURE. Yarr, what tables?

LE MEW. *(Angry:)* It is a figure of speech!

CAPTAIN COMPOSURE. Well, bein' as how I have the sword lad, I got the advantage. Now I'll be takin' both objects and thy life.

(LE MEW holds COMPOSURE's soul over a cliff.)

LE MEW. Or I could just drop your soul over the cliff into the sea, to be washed away forever, no?

CAPTAIN COMPOSURE. No!

LE MEW. What is it going to be Captain? (*Holds up the shell.*) The world? Or your soul?

(*LE MEW throws the canteen down over the edge of the cliff.*)

PIRATE #1. Choose the world please Captain!

CAPTAIN COMPOSURE. Yarr!

(*CAPTAIN COMPOSURE dives off stage, over the edge of the cliff.*)

PIRATE #3. Idiot!

LE MEW. And so he chooses. Meantime, this treasure isle is ours and these pirates our slaves. Tonight we celebrate! I hope you pirates know how to cook.

PIRATE #1. We don't.

LE MEW. Dang it!

Scene 5

(*The sea. CAPTAIN COMPOSURE lays unconscious once again on a plank. In his grasp is his canteen. Enter the SEA MONSTER, followed by the MERMAID:*)

SEA MONSTER. Here, over here. We found him floating as we were on our way. I wanted to know if we could eat him. Now before you answer, please keep in mind that we've already seasoned him heavily.

MERMAID. Captain Composure. I was hoping our paths would cross again.

(*As the MERMAID is speaking, the SEA MONSTER has rolled up COMPOSURE's pant leg and is about to take a bite.*)

Levi!

SEA MONSTER. Come on! He looks super yummy!

MERMAID. I suspect you will find plenty of food where you're heading. Now leave us!

SEA MONSTER. Unfair!

MERMAID. Go!

**THIS PLAY IS
NOT OVER!**

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