



TRAITOR BILL

STORY STARTER BY AUBREY HARTMAN

The first thing Barnabee Thatch did after he ran off with the pirates of The Jolly Gunstead was change his horrible name. Traitor Bill, he called himself, and it wasn't long 'til the crew learned why. Because the second thing he did? Shove the Captain overboard and take The Jolly Gunstead for his own.

"I know who you are," I spat. I jerked against the ropes, testing the strength of the bindings.

"Barnabee Thatch."

Around us, the town was ablaze.

Traitor Bill paced in front of me, twirling a dagger. "I'd rather ye not call me that in front of my crew. Now, word is ye know where to find the Isle of the Lost Key."

"I don't know what you're talking about."

A murmur moved through the crew. I was a good liar. But Traitor Bill, sadly, was no fool. He had to know the only person on earth who could get him to the mysterious island was me. Maxine Louisa Finch. Penny sailor. Youngest navigator of the Royal Army. And daughter of the captain he'd betrayed.

Traitor Bill's gold teeth glinted in the firelight. "Aye, ye do know how to find the Isle, lassie. And you're going to take us to it."

AN OCEAN OF STORIES

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