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1 **EXT. BEACH. DAY 1.** 1

Strewn along the beach, several dark objects. As we come in closer we see they are the washed up bodies of drowned black MEN, WOMEN and CHILDREN, some chained together, face down.

CUT TO:

2 **EXT. COACH. DAY 1.** 2

A coach rattles through the English countryside. Alone.

CUT TO:

3 **INT/EXT. COACH. DAY 1.** 3

FOUR COACH PASSENGERS, including GARROW, at the point of a pistol aimed at them as they warily, fearfully even, remove their valuables and hand them over. We open out to see the HIGHWAYMAN, impatiently gesturing with the pistol to hurry them along. As he takes their valuables, the HIGHWAYMAN stops, pulls down his mask and enquires:

HIGHWAYMAN

Mr Garrow...?

GARROW

You know me?

The HIGHWAYMAN's tone suddenly friendly, convivial.

HIGHWAYMAN

Know you? Why I'd know you even if you was boiled up in soup!

GARROW smiles awkwardly at the scrutiny of the other PASSENGERS.

HIGHWAYMAN

You was for me at the Bailey. Highway robbery and not guilty. You do not remember?

GARROW

The memory is all too vivid now.

The HIGHWAYMAN, delighted, hands him back his valuables.

HIGHWAYMAN

I paid you out before and I am grateful once again. Lord bless you and save you!

The HIGHWAYMAN withdraws. GARROW acutely aware of the other PASSENGERS looking at him. They are put out. They didn't get their valuables back.

CUT TO:

4	SCENE OMITTED	4
5	EXT. STREET. DAY 1.	5

GARROW stepping down from the coach, luggage in hand. He hurries along the street.

CUT TO:

6 **EXT. SOUTHOUSE'S OFFICE. COURTYARD. DAY 1.** 6

GARROW contemplating SOUTHOUSE's office. He goes in.

CUT TO:

7 **INT. SOUTHOUSE'S OFFICE. DAY 1.** 7

GARROW standing in SOUTHOUSE's office (with luggage) looking around curiously at its chaotic, fly blown appearance.

GARROW

Mr Southouse...? Mr Southouse..!

SOUTHOUSE'S head appears from below the desk behind which he has obviously been hiding.

SOUTHOUSE

You are within.

GARROW

The door was unlocked.

SOUTHOUSE

Damnation.

GARROW

You wished it so?

SOUTHOUSE

You think I would wish to give my creditors an opportunity?!

GARROW

You have debts?

SOUTHOUSE

Merely accounts that I have yet to settle.

GARROW, dismayed by SOUTHOUSE's words, appearance and demeanour as his mentor hurries to the door to lock the door.

GARROW

It burdens me to see you looking so...if I could have come back from the Northern Circuit sooner to keep company with you...

SOUTHOUSE

I am sure of it.

GARROW

It seems the life of a widower is not easy.

SOUTHUSE

It is altogether hard to take. The
loss of her is hard to take.

A tender moment between them. GARROW sees that SOUTHOUSE has been drinking, is drinking now. He's concerned.

GARROW

It seems you have found some other company...

SOUTHOUSE, ironic, rueful:

SOUTHOUSE

I have made myself a sacrifice at the shrine of Bacchus.

GARROW

If you are sometimes prostrate there I hope at least your profession keeps you upright still?

SOUTHOUSE doesn't respond.

GARROW

Mr Southouse...? (beat) Mr Southouse you have established clients. If you have served them well then they are repaying that service surely?

Pause. An admission:

SOUTHOUSE

I have not had appetite to provide that service. Nor gone about it.

GARROW

You have lost your grip.

SOUTHOUSE

I am still at these offices but...not quite in my office.

GARROW

Mr Southouse we can remedy this...

He takes his jacket off and fills a bowl with water.

GARROW

Firstly we will improve your appearance by some shaving to your face, I will send out for some coffee and thus enlivened you will venture into the coffee shops, converse with the Merchants and anyone else in need of an Attorney...

SOUTHOUSE looks at him with fondness.

SOUTHHOUSE

I had reckoned your absence longer
than two months.

CUT TO:

8 **EXT. HILL'S HOUSE. DAY 1.**

8

LADY SARAH makes her way from a carriage with a retinue in her wake - her maid, MARY CHRISTIE, who is carrying SARAH's son SAMUEL, followed by FOOTMEN and BUTLER carrying in chests of clothes and belongings.

CUT TO:

9 **INT. HILL'S HOUSE. DINING ROOM. DAY 1.**

9

SIR ARTHUR HILL, in the middle of breakfast, surprised and not altogether happy at Sarah's entrance with SAMUEL.

HILL

You did not send word of your return
to London.

SARAH

I did not expect my confinement to
last six months.

HILL

Bramber is hardly a confinement.

SARAH

Bramber is not my home, it is your
borough and my dear Arthur you are
never there.

HILL

And so when we are united it is a
happy occasion.

SARAH

And when we are not it is a less than
happy separation. Now I am come home.
To you.

HILL

But I am engaged in Parliament and at
the Admiralty.

SARAH

You are second Assistant Secretary
there - how engaged can you be?

HILL
Samuel is well.

SARAH hands SAMUEL to HILL.

SARAH

You see how he does respond to you? I am glad of it because I must take my leave of you....

HILL

You go where?

SARAH

I have urgent business to attend to. Mary...

HILL

It requires the presence of your maid?

SARAH, lightly, affectionately.

SARAH

As your son requires you.

SARAH leaves. HILL looking ambivalently at SAMUEL.

CUT TO:

10

INT. OLD BAILEY. COURTROOM. DAY 1.

10

A woman called ANNIE CHRISTIE is in the dock. Judge BULLER presiding. YARDLEY, a Parish Constable, is giving evidence against her. SILVESTER is prosecuting. At the Counsel's table GARROW - uninvolved in the case - is reading a newspaper:

YARDLEY

I insisted on knowing what she had in her apron. There I found two gowns, a scarlet cloak and a sheet....

*

SILVESTER

Were there any other things found but these?

YARDLEY

This key I found on her which opens the Prosecutors door.

He holds it up. GARROW glances up. SILVESTER, satisfied. The case seems cut and dried.

SILVESTER

No more questions my Lord.

JUDGE BULLER

Do you have anything to say in your defence?

ANNIE CHRISTIE

I buy and sell old clothes. I bought these things of a woman. As for the key, it is the key of my door.

*

GARROW suddenly compelled to stand up.

GARROW

My Lord as this poor woman has no counsel will you permit me as Amicus curiae to ask Mr Yardley a thing or two?

JUDGE BULLER

Very well.

SILVESTER and GARROW share a look.

GARROW

Did you ever try this key you say opens the prosecutors door?

YARDLEY

No.

GARROW

Then [how do you identify it as such?](#)

*

YARDLEY

Because the prosecutor tells me her
key was eat up with rust.

*
*
*

GARROW, incredulous:

GARROW

Is it by a key being worn with rust
sir that you affect to identify it in
a court of justice?

GARROW takes a key out of his pocket.

*

GARROW

I have the key to my chambers here. It
too is eat up with rust.

*
*
*

Laughter from the court.

*

CUT TO:

11 INT/EXT. CARRIAGE. DAY 1.

11

SOUTHHOUSE is travelling in a carriage with two men - the
GILBERTS. PETER GILBERT more tentative, diplomatic, drier. HUGH,
unapologetic, to the point. They give the impression of being
busy with little time to waste.

PETER GILBERT

Ship called the Zong. The owners claimed for
the value of their..of their cargo.

HUGH GILBERT

133 slaves thrown overboard. On the
grounds of necessity.

PETER GILBERT

The Captain deemed they were running
out of water supplies. The action
purportedly taken to save the ship.

HUGH GILBERT
Purportedly.

PETER GILBERT
We honoured the loss.

HUGH GILBERT
Thirty pounds each Negro. Three
thousand nine hundred and ninety
pounds.

PETER GILBERT
As we undertook the risk of loss,
capture and death of the slaves or any
other unavoidable accident to them.

SOUTHHOUSE
And now you dispute the claim?

HUGH GILBERT
We do more than that. We challenge
fraud.

HUGH GILBERT hands him a journal.

SOUTHHOUSE
The ship masters log?

PETER GILBERT
No, that was apparently lost.

HUGH, recriminatory to PETER:

HUGH GILBERT
Its loss should have been a
disqualifying clause in the policy and
we would have been discharged by it.

PETER GILBERT
Well now we are here to remedy it!(to
SOUTHHOUSE) This is a diary written by
the only passenger on board the ship.
Robert Stubbs. It contradicts the
captains account.

SOUTHHOUSE
And has only since come to light?

PETER GILBERT
Mr Stubbs almost succumbed to the
fever that gripped him aboard ship.
(MORE)

PETER GILBERT (cont'd)

He was in no position to co-operate in our assessment of the claim but now recovering, saw fit to forward the documentation.

SOUTHUSE

Well Gentlemen I am very happy to accept the case. Grateful in fact.

HUGH GILBERT

Your engagement is conditional on you instructing Mr Garrow.

SOUTHUSE

I see.

PETER GILBERT

We are underwriters averse to risk Mr Southouse. And in Mr Garrow we see fewer. Goodbye.

The coach has stopped and HUGH GILBERT opens the door to let SOUTHUSE out. He's a little dismayed by his abrupt dismissal.

CUT TO:

12 **EXT. STREET. DAY 1.** 12

SOUTHUSE dumped somewhere in the middle of London, he's not even sure where. He's trying to retain some dignity.

CUT TO:

13 **INT. OLD BAILEY. COURTROOM. DAY 1.** 13

JUDGE BULLER

(To ANNIE CHRISTIE) Who is this woman you brought the clothes from?

*

ANNIE CHRISTIE

I did not know her.

JUDGE BULLER

Then where did this sale take place?

ANNIE CHRISTIE

In the Blue Boar.

BULLER, repeating the answer sceptically, world wearily and critically.

JUDGE BULLER

In the Blue Boar.

GARROW realizes that his intervention has not been decisive. SILVESTER smiles at BULLER's response and then at GARROW - because he knows it too.

JUDGE BULLER

Do you have any witnesses to speak on your behalf?

ANNIE CHRISTIE

I have no friend in the world but God and...

ANNIE glances up into the public gallery, as if looking for someone.

JUDGE BULLER

And who Madam?

ANNIE CHRISTIE

But God and you Gentlemen and I beg for mercy.

GARROW looks at ANNIE apologetically as if to say 'I did my best'. She looks disconsolate.

JUDGE BULLER

Members of the Jury, you may...

Suddenly a voice rings out, interrupting him:

SARAH (O.S.)

I will speak for her!

SARAH (with MARY alongside) has appeared in the public gallery. GARROW looks up, astonished and utterly dismayed.

JUDGE BULLER

Lady Sarah! I do not normally take kindly at being interrupted in my own court but your appearance or should I say your re-appearance gives me an altogether different humour.

SILVESTER

I think you are not alone my Lord.

JUDGE BULLER

Swear her.

SARAH comes to the witness box. The CLERK hands her a bible. SARAH, glancing at GARROW as she gives the oath, can't bring herself to make proper eye contact with him. It's mutual.

CUT TO:

14 INT. VASSA'S ROOM. DAY 1.

14

GUSTAVUS VASSA, a black man (late thirties) is sitting in a bath tub. He's distracted, lost in thought, in some kind of haunted remembrance as he washes himself.

CUT TO:

15 INT. OLD BAILEY. COURTROOM. DAY 1.

15

SARAH, giving evidence, a little uncertain, acutely aware of GARROW's presence.

SARAH

She...she was formerly house maid to me and I still employ her sister Mary as my personal maid.

JUDGE BULLER

What character does she bear?

SARAH

Honest, hardworking, conscientious. In her three years of service I only had cause to invest my trust in the prisoner.

SARAH addresses this to the Jury. It goes down well.

GARROW

Lady Sarah, I do not represent the prisoner but ask questions on her behalf as amicus curiae - a friend of the court.

SARAH

Then she is truly befriended.

GARROW

And by you too I think.

JUDGE BULLER

Mr Garrow do you have a question to
put to this witness? Well?

SARAH

I have been in the country. I have a son now. Samuel.

GARROW

I wish you well in your happiness.

They hold each others gaze for a moment or two and she goes. SOUTHOUSE approaches, looks on at SARAH's departure.

GARROW

Coincidental Mr Southouse.

SOUTHOUSE

Not serendipitous then?

GARROW

The only good fortune in this is the outcome of the trial. Do not enquire after my heart.

SOUTHOUSE

I make no judgement.

GARROW

You do not? Most unlike you.

SOUTHOUSE

I wish to instruct you in a case. I hope it will be of interest. I...

GARROW, picking up on SOUTHOUSE's vulnerability.

GARROW

Mr Southouse...

SOUTHOUSE

I venture that it must.

CUT TO:

18

INT. HILL'S HOUSE. DRAWING ROOM. DAY 1.

18

HILL challenging SARAH:

HILL

A lady bears witness at the Old Bailey to a former scullery maid? That does not happen!

SARAH

You should know of me that I care not for convention.

HILL

I hope you do make an exception for
the conventions in your marriage.
(beat) Who did defend her?

SARAH
Mr Garrow.

HILL
Garrow?

SARAH pre-empting the conclusion he thinks he's coming to.

SARAH
I had no more expectations of seeing Mr
Garrow than he had of seeing me.

CUT TO:

19

INT. SOUTHOUSE'S OFFICE. DAY 1.

19

SOUTHOUSE is outlining the case to GARROW.

SOUTHOUSE
The insurance claim declared the ship
was rendered 'foul and leaky, having
been retarded by perils of the sea'.
Contrary winds and currents and other
'mistakes'.

GARROW
Affecting the safe passage of its
cargo?

SOUTHOUSE
440 Africans on board from west Africa
to Jamaica. 133 thrown into the sea,
60 dead from fever. Now...

SOUTHOUSE rolls out a map and lays it flat on the desk.

SOUTHOUSE
....Liverpool Assurance covered the
loss of £30 per negro because
although Captain Collingwood may have
been 'in want of common care' he was
not negligent. However, Robert Stubbs
diary suggests very strongly that the
loss arose not from 'perils of the
sea' but from Collingwood's poor
judgement.

GARROW
How so?

SOUTHOUSE using the map to show the journey.

SOUTHUSE

On the voyage he mistook Jamaica for
Hispaniola - Spanish territory - so
they did not dare venture there.

(MORE)

SOUTHUSE (cont'd)

Belatedly realizing his mistake he is then committed to the necessity of having to sail back to Jamaica against the prevailing winds. The ship, according to Stubbs, was 300 miles leeward.

GARROW

The wrong side?

SOUTHUSE

And subsequently the journey took 112 days instead of the 60 days of most Middle Passage journeys.

GARROW

As a consequence of which they ran out of water.

SOUTHUSE

And the slaves jettisoned.

GARROW

How grievous this mistake?

SOUTHUSE

Enough to suggest negligence, that he was not fit to command. Enough to suggest the insurers were misled. 'The want of skill in a Commander is not a risk for which the underwriters are responsible'.

GARROW looking at STUBBS journal/diary:

GARROW

The account finishes before any throwing over of slaves.

SOUTHUSE

Stubbs words still compel the prosecution of this case.

GARROW

There is an appalling loss of life in this.

SOUTHUSE

The case would answer to that.

GARROW

Would it? It is a case about liability for the loss of cargo.

(MORE)

GARROW (cont'd)

That the declaration was true or
false is all it will answer to.

SOUTHHOUSE

It would also answer to my...
difficulty! (beat) I am in want of
this brief Will.

GARROW receptive but troubled and conflicted, leaves. SOUTHHOUSE
left frustrated and worried.

CUT TO:

20 **EXT. STREET. DAY 1.**

20

VASSA making his way to see GARROW. He passes a BLACK SLAVE in
the street, his neck fastened with an iron collar. The BLACK
SLAVE stops to look at VASSA with a curiosity as acute as
VASSA's discomfort at the sight of a fellow 'Guineaman'. With a
nod of acknowledgement VASSA turns and walks on.

CUT TO:

21 **INT. GARROW'S CHAMBERS. DAY 1.**

21

VASSA in with GARROW and SOUTHHOUSE.

*

VASSA

*

Fifty four women and children thrown
singly through the cabin windows. One
after the other. The rest from the
quarter deck, shackled together two by
two and weighed down with iron. Eleven
jumped into the water voluntarily.
Death becomes the best friend you have
on such a voyage. You wish its relief.

*

GARROW

*

You should know that I am already
requested in this cause. Liverpool
Assurance wish to prosecute the owners
of the Zong for insurance fraud.

*

GUSTAVUS VASSA

*

You are wrong if you think that is the
same cause. That is merely a mercenary
business about the pecuniary value of
Negroes. Not their right to live. And
being deprived of their right to live
I will prosecute for murder.

*

GARROW

*

But forgive me Mr Vassa, you were not
aboard this ship, you lost no relative
on it. I mean to say that no crime has
been committed against you.

*

VASSA, sardonic, indignant. *

GUSTAVUS VASSA *

Because I was not murdered myself?!
Because I survived my own passage,
must I stand aside and venture only my
good fortune? I am them Mr Garrow, I
am them! *

SOUTHUSE *

But a prosecution for murder cannot
succeed! Either at the old Bailey or
the Admiralty Court! *

GUSTAVUS VASSA *

Its success will depend on the Jury. *

SOUTHUSE *

I mean it cannot even be begun because
cargo cannot be murdered! Africans are
viewed as no different from other
forms of property, like horses and
cattle. *

GUSTAVUS VASSA *

If you are an Attorney then you should
know your law! The Somerset ruling
gave it out that 'property' can have
rights. *

SOUTHUSE *

For a freed slave in England like
yourself perhaps. But not maritime
cargo. It is inanimate! *

GUSTAVUS VASSA *

Slaves have 'agency' in the way of
insurrection at sea! And when they are
killed for it, the owners claim! *

SOUTHUSE *

Horses can rear up and be shot for it
and the owners claim! But that does
not make them human! *

VASSA angry with Southouse, glances at GARROW. *

SOUTHUSE (CONT'D) *

African slaves do not have the status
of personhood. I merely make the point
in law. As an Attorney. *

GUSTAVUS VASSA *

(POINTEDLY) In want of a brief. *

GARROW

Hear me...both of you!(BEAT) I think we can proceed in a way that will satisfy us all.

GUSTAVUS VASSA

If Mr Southouse is to be satisfied then you will prosecute an insurance fraud...

GARROW

It will help you in your cause! Lose a prosecution for murder then a definitive precedent is set that slaves can be killed at will. But if I can prove the claim to be fraudulent, if I can prove the plea of necessity for those deaths to be false then...

GUSTAVUS VASSA

Then the insurers interests will be served.

GARROW

Yes but more than that! Because in future, because of this case, they may find a better way to see those interests served. By providing the least possible indemnity for slaves murdered in passage.

GUSTAVUS VASSA

Instead of thirty pounds for a negro's head they will only pay out twenty? That is your idea of progress Mr Garrow?

GARROW

If it will inhibit the murder of slaves then yes.

GUSTAVUS VASSA

So you will inch towards justice and not demand it?

GARROW

If we go in its direction then yes!

GUSTAVUS VASSA

I cannot allow myself your patience.

VASSA goes. SOUTHOUSE to GARROW:

SOUTHUSE

I shall begin preparation of the case
by visiting Liverpool. I just wish it
were not such a long way to venture.

*
*
*
*

GARROW

But it will provide some distraction
from...other matters that press you.

*
*
*

SOUTHUSE

I shall work assiduously and all the
time complain.

*
*
*

CUT TO:

*

22	SCENE OMITTED.	22	*
23	SCENE OMITTED	23	*
24	SCENE OMITTED	24	*
			*

JAMES KELSALL

You have found him. And who enquires after him.

SOUTHUSE

John Southouse, Attorney.

The GROUP moves away at this. SOUTHUSE sits down opposite KELSALL and as the SERVING MAID approaches he tells her:

SOUTHUSE

Water.

JAMES KELSALL

Your business sir?

SOUTHUSE

I act for Liverpool Assurance.

JAMES KELSALL

Then you have no business with me.

SOUTHUSE

You will be called by the defence and then you shall do business with the Prosecution's counsel. So it may be as well for you to hear what may be put to you.

JAMES KELSALL

I have already sworn that there was only enough water for four days but ten to thirteen days would be required to regain Jamaica.

SOUTHUSE

Which knowledge caused Captain Collingwood to call his crew about him? To begin the throwing over of the slaves? Women and children first?

JAMES KELSALL

29th November. Eight o'clock in the evening. Coinciding with the changing of the watch. When the maximum numbers of crew members were available...for the task.

SOUTHUSE

How did it feel to commit such an act?

KELSALL hesitates, trying to disguise any conflict.

JAMES KELSALL

I will not reproach myself for my
obedience.

SOUTHUSE

And does your conscience reproach you?

JAMES KELSALL

If the charge were murder it might be so but as it is fraud it does not figure.

SOUTHUSE

Robert Stubbs wrote a journal of his time on the ship. You know of it?

JAMES KELSALL

The man was in a fever.

SOUTHUSE

And his view of Captain Collingwood - did his agitation only come from the typhoid or from what he had seen?

KELSALL is troubled and not willing to answer.

JAMES KELSALL

You will not make a case with me...I must make my living.

SOUTHUSE

From the pushing of slaves into the sea? And then to swear for Collingwood?

JAMES KELSALL

On a voyage such as that, men succumb. I cannot suffer for all of them.

SOUTHUSE

Who do you suffer for?

KELSALL will not respond.

SOUTHUSE

I have already obtained the muster roll. There were two Kelsalls on board. Yourself and...?

JAMES KELSALL

It does not signify. Besides I know what I must answer.

SOUTHUSE

What you must not what you ought? But then you are first mate and practiced in doing the bidding of Captain Collingwood.

KELSALL, provoked.

JAMES KELSALL

I am not so easily bidden! I stand by my opinions!

SOUTHUSE

Then you have been in dispute with him? Concerning?

JAMES KELSALL

I admire the way you seek to gain sir but you will not profit from me.

SOUTHUSE

As you profit from your silence?

KELSALL doesn't respond. SOUTHUSE goes. A MAN has been watching this encounter - CAPTAIN COLLINGWOOD. He approaches.

CAPTAIN COLLINGWOOD

Show as much resolve at the Old Bailey and you will find no quarrel with me.

JAMES KELSALL

Thank you Captain Collingwood. Still at your service.

A hint of 'needle' .

CUT TO:

29

INT. OLD BAILEY. CORRIDOR. DAY 2.

29

STUBBS is with GARROW. He is weak, his breathing laboured.

GARROW

Mr Stubbs I am indebted that you journey here despite your health.

ROBERT STUBBS

I think the cause worth any discomfort.

GARROW

Good. And so in support of your journal you will testify Mr Stubbs?

ROBERT STUBBS

As Liverpool Assurance prosecute this case largely on my account I shall answer to it in court.

GARROW encouraged, smiling.

GARROW

God wish you strength.

ROBERT STUBBS
You have a drop of wine, sir? That
will indeed fortify me.

CUT TO:

30 **INT. HILL'S HOUSE. NURSERY. NIGHT 2.**

30

MARY is attending SAMUEL. HILL is looking on. MARY, aware of his scrutiny.

MARY CHRISTIE
You wish to have hold of him, sir.

HILL
No...no. Just...look upon him.

Pause.

HILL
What do you think of his appearance?

MARY, taking the question at face value.

MARY CHRISTIE
Very handsome, sir. And very much in
the way of his father.

HILL ambivalent, smiles stiffly.

CUT TO:

31 **EXT. PARK. DAY 3.**

31

SOUTHHOUSE and GARROW walking together

SOUTHHOUSE
He would go no further but that there
had been some disagreement.

GARROW
If the blood was bad between Kelsall
and Collingwood we shall have it out
in court.

SOUTHHOUSE
And Stubbs?

GARROW
Determined to convince a Jury.

SOUTHHOUSE
And with yourself to take him through
his evidence, certainly!

Approaching them from the opposite direction is SARAH and MARY with SAMUEL. SOUTHOUSE looks to GARROW. GARROW looks uncomfortable, troubled.

SOUTHOUSE
Lady Sarah.

SARAH
Mr Southouse. And my child Samuel to introduce...

SOUTHOUSE
A healthy boy. A cement to conjugal affection!

Pause.

SOUTHOUSE
I mean a further cement.

SARAH, teasing:

SARAH
Mr Garrow - you are mute as a mackerel. You are not taken with this infant?

GARROW (LIGHT)
I stand back merely in order not to distress it.

SARAH
Or it to distress you?

GARROW
It is your child Lady Sarah - how could that ever be?

The baggage is not lost on a discomfited SOUTHOUSE. Both parties withdraw. GARROW aware of SOUTHOUSE's scrutiny.

GARROW
You think I would engineer an assignation involving an Attorney, a nurse maid and a baby?

SOUTHOUSE
I said nothing.

GARROW
I have long since relinquished all such feelings in the matter.

He looks back in the direction of SARAH. She is looking back at him. It's obvious they still love each other.

CUT TO:

32 **EXT. ADMIRALTY. DAY 3.** 32

Establish the Admiralty building. Imposing.

CUT TO:

33 **INT. ADMIRALTY. CORRIDOR. DAY 3.** 33

LORD MELVILLE makes his way purposefully - a retinue following behind him - a sign of his importance.

CUT TO:

34 **INT. ADMIRALTY. HILL'S OFFICE. DAY 3.** 34

HILL ensconced with MELVILLE.

HILL

You wish me to intervene? *

LORD MELVILLE

I merely ask you to persuade Liverpool Assurance to withdraw. Unless you wish the abolitionists to gain encouragement from this trial? *

HILL, 'getting' it. *

HILL

The Commander of a British slave ship hanged?

LORD MELVILLE

And the economies of the French and Dutch much improved. (beat) It is paramount that EVERYBODY involved in the slave trade can make assurances that conditions on board the ships are acceptable. Who acts for Liverpool Assurance in this prosecution? *

HILL

Mr Garrow.

LORD MELVILLE *

Garrow. In every case he smells out a cause and a challenge to our laws. He is as malignant as any spy that moves in our society.

HILL

I shall speak with Liverpool
Assurance.

CUT TO:

*

35 INT. VASSA'S HOUSE. NIGHT 3. 35 *

VASSA undressing, about to wash from a china bowl. When he takes off his shirt we see the scars on his back from the floggings he has experienced. He looks into a mirror. Raises water to his face in his cupped hands. *

CUT TO:

36 INT. SHIP'S HOLD. DAY (FLASHBACK). 36

VASSA's face, feverish, drenched in sweat, close up, glancing fearfully alongside him at the SLAVE he's chained to. The SLAVE is upright but dead.

CUT TO:

37 INT. VASSA'S HOUSE. NIGHT 3. 37

VASSA allows the water to fall through his fingers. It pours into the bowl. *

CUT TO: *

38 INT. HILL'S HOUSE. DINING ROOM. NIGHT 3. 38

Dinner. SARAH looks up at HILL, askance:

SARAH
Your valet?

HILL
He had...occasion to be there. In the park. And did report...

SARAH
A meeting? I came upon the man!

HILL
Then was it hoped for? Did you wish to re-unite Garrow with what is his?

SARAH
Samuel? I have been faithful to you!

HILL
I cannot believe it to be so. I have given my thoughts over to this constantly. I will not condemn you for my spurious offspring.

HILL (CONT'D)

I will accept the child as my own. He will be heir to my entire estate, my title and my property. At least I will keep my dignity in society. With you alongside me.

SARAH looks at him appalled.

SARAH

So you will arrange our marriage according to your delusion? You will 'allow' me to have deceived you when I have never been anything but constant to you? And all this in the cause of your 'dignity'?

HILL

You cannot be glad that I forgive you?

SARAH

I cannot be glad that you believe it so! And that you think to tolerate your son as a bastard.

She gets up and walks out on him.

CUT TO:

39

INT. ADMIRALTY. HILL'S OFFICE. DAY 4.

39

HILL is trying to persuade the GILBERT BROTHERS.

HILL

The unsavoury aspect of this case may well lead to pressure in Parliament to regulate slave insurance.

HUGH GILBERT

How so?

HILL

By specifying along the lines that NO loss shall be recoverable against the throwing over of living slaves ON ANY ACCOUNT WHATSOEVER. Underwriters like yourself will lose business and slaves will become uninsurable.

PETER GILBERT looks anxious at this. HUGH is bullish.

HUGH GILBERT

Sir Arthur we do not intend to sustain
or accept any loss in this case by
abandoning it.

HILL

You deal in risk? How will you
underwrite the end of your business?
You are of this trade. You cannot
undermine it.

HUGH GILBERT

We do not predict history, we follow
policy. And we are £4000 out of pocket
because of a fraudulent claim.

PETER GILBERT

Slaves overboard or not Sir Arthur I
am afraid that has been our most
grievous discovery.

HILL doesn't like being thwarted in this way but realizes he
cannot dissuade them.

CUT TO:

40 **INT. CARRIAGE. DAY 4.**

40

PETER and HUGH GILBERT are meeting with GARROW and SOUTHOUSE.
The carriage throws them around a little.

PETER GILBERT

Naturally we resisted Sir Arthur's wish for
us to adopt a 'political' view.

GARROW

What view do you take?

HUGH GILBERT

We wish our money back. And proving the
claim falsely made you will obtain it.

He considers the meeting over and raps on the carriage roof,
signalling that it should stop. SOUTHOUSE, glances at GARROW who
is obviously not impressed. SOUTHOUSE tells the GILBERTS
reassuringly as he gets out:

SOUTHOUSE

If Captain Collingwood was not a true
commander of his ship, Mr Garrow will
have it out. For he can steer the Old
Bailey to his will.

They exit the carriage.

40A **EXT. STREET. DAY 4.**

40A

GARROW and SOUTHOUSE on the street.

GARROW

'For he can steer the Old Bailey to
his will'?

SOUTHHOUSE looking at GARROW a little sheepishly.

SOUTHHOUSE
I thought it suitably...maritime.

GARROW
(As he begins to walk)
I shall not tell you what I thought it.

SOUTHHOUSE
They are clients to us both.

GARROW
Cargo, negro, our fellow creatures- it is mere noise to them. Profit is their trumpet blast and I am to blow it for them. Is this what it means to act as counsel for the prosecution? That I do enrich those who do engage me in it?

SOUTHHOUSE
And you think I would not wish a brief more deserving of our service! I am merely grateful that preparation for the case helps restore me to my previous humour. As for the Gilberts intention I hold my nose to it!
(PAUSE) Will, does not the meddling of the Admiralty show that it is about more than mere insurance?

GARROW
I should make it so.

SOUTHHOUSE not quite sure what this means.

CUT TO:

41 INT. HILL'S HOUSE. DRESSING ROOM. NIGHT 4.

41

HILL has come to seek SARAH out. He's conciliatory, gentle.

HILL
All I ask of you...all I ask is some gesture to me, some thought or deed or word that means you reciprocate the feeling I have for you.

SARAH is in front of the mirror looking levelly at him.

SARAH
What can I ever do in such a way that will convince you of my constancy?

HILL
Mr Garrow...(PAUSE)I am in want of
information about a trial he is
prosecuting.

Pause. SARAH can't help hide her disappointment at this.

SARAH
I see. (Beat)

HILL
I am your husband. You can convince me
you are truly my wife.

SARAH
And if I am truly your wife you will
believe Samuel is truly your son?

HILL sincere, heartfelt

HILL
It is my most fervent wish Sarah. It
would... it would break the spell I
have fallen into.

HILL's intent, conviction gives SARAH real difficulty.

CUT TO:

42

INT. HILL'S HOUSE. NURSERY. NIGHT 4.

42

SARAH is looking at SAMUEL - she has been crying.

SARAH, touches Samuel's head. She doesn't know what to do.

CUT TO:

43 **INT. GARROW'S CHAMBERS. NIGHT 4.**

43

GARROW is reading STUBBS journal. He's obviously frustrated and keeps flicking back and forth across then pages as if to find something more.

CUT TO:

44 **EXT. PARK. DAY 5.**

44

GARROW is walking with SARAH.

GARROW

I had not thought that we would come to be in each others company again. Or that you might wish it and request it.

SARAH

You object to the cause of friendship?

GARROW (LIGHT, TEASING)

I cannot object. It is a favour you bestow on me and I am truly grateful.

SARAH (RESPONDING)

And that you find time to indulge me I am also thankful. You are the scourge of venal prosecutors still?

GARROW

And soon to be their advocate also.

SARAH
I cannot imagine it.

GARROW
An insurance fraud.

SARAH
Not heard at the Kings Bench?

GARROW
It is a criminal trial. A slave ship
threw its captives overboard. They
claim out of necessity. I must prove
negligence.

SARAH
There is evidence?

GARROW
Southouse is assiduous.

SARAH
Enough to prove the claim false?

GARROW
You are curious.

He looks at her and smiles. She is troubled by her intent.

SARAH
Forgive me. We shall not talk of it. I
have been too long out of society and
stilted in conversation.

GARROW
As for me I am not listening very well.

GARROW says this lightly but looks at her for longer than he
should. They both know it.

GARROW
The case presses me. I must go.

SARAH
I wish you well.

CUT TO:

45 INT. GARROW'S CHAMBERS. DAY 5.

45

GARROW is reading out an extract of STUBBS diary to VASSA.

GARROW

"Thursday 3rd April 1791. Light breezes with very hazy Westerley and heavy dews. A great number of sharks attend the vessel. At 6pm Collingwood amputated a man's finger that was begun to mortify, having been bitten by another slave. At 8pm he departed this life"

Pause.

GARROW

Stubbs journal is full of such entries
and most pertinent on Captain
Collingwood's wayward navigation...

GUSTAVUS VASSA

Then you have your case.

GARROW

I know how to argue this case, I know how to
prosecute it but I know nothing of the tragedy
that is at the heart of it. I am all legal
knowledge yet shamed by my ignorance. 133 souls
should be in this case. Massacre is not
anywhere in the indictment or Stubbs journal
but it may come to find itself in the evidence
I shall present.

GUSTAVUS VASSA

How so?

GARROW

If you will appear as a witness.

GUSTAVUS VASSA

But I was not there.

GARROW

Not on the Zong. But you and those 133
souls may be concealed in another
vessel altogether.

GUSTAVUS VASSA

A Trojan horse?

GARROW smiles. VASSA responds.

CUT TO:

46

INT. HILL'S HOUSE. DRAWING ROOM. DAY 5.

46

HILL is working. SARAH comes in. He looks up.

SARAH

I will not do it. I cannot.

HILL

Cannot?

SARAH

It would be unjust. A betrayal.

HILL

Your loyalty is to me.

SARAH

I must be true to myself!

HILL

And true to him because you love him?

SARAH cannot, will not, respond. He takes this as an admission.
And vindication.

HILL

You accused me before of delusion. But now
it is proven. It is all proven!

SARAH

Your judgement is all wrong!

HILL

I see you make your decision!

CUT TO:

47

INT. GARROW'S CHAMBERS. DAY 5.

47

GARROW is taking notes.

GUSTAVUS VASSA

The sharks would always accompany the
ship in expectation of dead bodies
being thrown over. They were never
disappointed.

GARROW

And you would wish to be thrown over
yourself?

GUSTAVUS VASSA

If I could have gotten over the
nettings.

GARROW

Nettings?

GUSTAVUS VASSA

The assembly of ropes placed along the
sides of the ship to prevent that
particular redemption. And then we
were truly delivered Mr Garrow.

GARROW

In Barbados?

GUSTAVUS VASSA

The merchants and planters came on
board and examined us most attentively
and then they made us jump.

GARROW

Jump?

GUSTAVUS VASSA
Those who could jump the highest
fetched the best price. A sign of
health and strength.

Pause. VASSA, distracted, elsewhere...

GUSTAVUS VASSA
Like this...

VASSA jumps. GARROW, uncomfortable:

GARROW
Mr Vassa...

VASSA jumps again.

GUSTAVUS VASSA
You see Mr Garrow? How high...

GARROW
Gustavus please...

GUSTAVUS VASSA
Like this, like this!

VASSA breaks down. GARROW holds him by the shoulders.

GARROW
You will take your place in the witness
box Gustavus. You will take your place.

CUT TO:

48

INT. ADMIRALTY. HILL'S OFFICE. DAY 5.

48

LORD MELVILLE
You will initiate proceedings?

HILL
At least I will be master of my fate
in that.

LORD MELVILLE
A parliamentary divorce is expensive
and...highly public.

HILL
Public? Tell me that you have not
already heard rumours about my wife's
conduct, that the House does not
already enliven itself with gossip at
my expense?

LORD MELVILLE
Involving a certain barrister?

HILL

There! I have no secret to hide from Westminster!

LORD MELVILLE

A parliamentary Divorce would amicably allow both sides to remarry. But I cannot think you could contemplate Garrow as Sarah's new husband. I cannot think you would wish it amicable.

HILL

Then what is there for me to do Lord Melville?

LORD MELVILLE

I think you are in want of the services of a particular Attorney.

LORD MELVILLE wants something done and hands it to him.

LORD MELVILLE

Mr John Farmer.

CUT TO:

49

INT. ADMIRALTY. HILL'S OFFICE. DAY 5.

49

JOHN FARMER is in with HILL. FARMER is an Attorney who also acts as a private Investigator.

FARMER

Separation from Bed and Board, as a legal dissolution of the marriage, forbids either party from re-marrying.

HILL

It is not my desire to exclude myself from future happiness.

FARMER

But it may be that your most express wish is to prevent such happiness coming the way of your wife.

HILL

If I am inclined to being vengeful?

FARMER

If you are inclined to being vengeful then separation from Bed and Board will answer to it.

HILL
Elaborate.

FARMER

If you seek the greater scope for 'punishment' then your wife will find herself in a ruinous state of limbo where she is neither respectably married or free to remarry and salvage her reputation. Disgraced, she would have to rely on the charity of... the third party, Mr Garrow.

HILL considering all of this.

*

HILL

Thank you Mr Farmer. I shall...

FARMER

I am at your service.

FARMER withdraws. HILL left to mull it over.

CUT TO:

50

EXT. HILL'S HOUSE. DAY 5.

50

As SARAH leaves the house she finds herself confronted by FARMER and an OFFICER. He sees immediately that there is something threatening about their stance.

FARMER

Lady Sarah Hill?

SARAH

You have identified me. May I ask the same of you?

The OFFICER steps forward and hands her a document.

FARMER

You are served with a citation from the Court of Doctors Commons.

She takes the document, nonplussed, wondering. We see HILL watching from a window.

CUT TO:

51

INT. GARROW'S CHAMBERS. NIGHT 5.

51

SOUTHHOUSE is going over the Zong case with GARROW.

SOUTHHOUSE

Negligence. Collingwood was negligent. Not evil, not a murderer, not cruel. And if you can prise Kelsall apart on the cause of the dispute that may answer to it.

GARROW

I wish to introduce another stratagem...

SOUTHHOUSE

You will enlighten me?

GARROW

Gustavus Vassa.

SOUTHHOUSE

What evidence will he provide?

*

GARROW

You did say yourself that this case was about more than insurance.

SOUTHHOUSE

There may be consequences is what I meant. But I will not have this prosecution sabotaged by pamphleteering and agitation!

GARROW

And I will not have this prosecution ignore murder!

Suddenly there's a rapping at the door. GARROW answers it to find SARAH there. She's upset and distracted.

GARROW

Sarah...?

SARAH seeing SOUTHHOUSE.

SARAH

I apologize for any intrusion. I did not have the wits to consider where else I may seek help.

GARROW

Help?

She hands him the writ she's been served. He reads it, looks at her, then hands it SOUTHOUSE.

SARAH

If he means to dissolve the marriage then I cannot say I am surprised by it but I must confess myself ignorant of the nature of it.

SOUTHHOUSE looks to GARROW.

SOUTHHOUSE

This means of action...it is a sad thing...

SARAH

I do not wish delicacy Mr Southouse. Enlighten me.

SOUTHHOUSE

He means to cut you off financially.

GARROW

What has provoked him in this way?

SARAH looks at GARROW. SOUTHHOUSE, taking the cue, decides to withdraw but needing to make a point:

SOUTHHOUSE

I fear you will be terribly detained by this Lady Sarah and I hope Mr Garrow will find time when he is not so detained himself by his pressing duties in the law...

GARROW, explaining to SARAH:

GARROW

I am prosecuting in the Zong case tomorrow.

SOUTHHOUSE

The session begins early.

Smiling stiffly, he goes but not without a final, pointed look at GARROW. SARAH and GARROW left alone.

GARROW

So you will tell me why your husband seeks to disown you?

SARAH

He is in the grip of an idea that our son is not his, that I am not faithful. And most of all he insists that I love you.

GARROW

Despite how you must have refuted
every accusation?

SARAH

His fancies have pushed me here. But
from such fancies a truth comes Will.

She looks at him intently. GARROW doesn't want to hear this,
know this. He's conflicted, tormented by it.

GARROW

I asked you once in vain to leave him.
Your refusal exhausted every hope I
ever had of you. Now you declare your
love for me as Hill seeks to banish
you?!

SARAH

(ANGRY) I do not come to you seeking
refuge, to hide from the disgrace he
is determined to put upon me. In fact
I have come to say that I will own it.
If the disgrace be my feeling for you
I will gladly own it!

*

Pause. He looks at her then goes to her, kisses her. She
responds. GARROW stops, pulls back.

GARROW

You must not.

CUT TO:

52 SCENE OMITTED

52 *

52A SCENE OMITTED

52A *

*

53	SCENE OMITTED	53	*
54	SCENE MOVED TO 56A	54	*

ROBERT STUBBS
Twenty seven miles.

GARROW
Twenty seven miles! Captain
Collingwood made a wrong
identification from a distance of
twenty seven miles?!(beat) No more
questions my Lord.

GARROW glad to have got through this examination without mishap.
SILVESTER stands up to cross examine.

SILVESTER
Mr Stubbs why is your account of the
journey incomplete?

ROBERT STUBBS
I was taken ill...

SILVESTER
Were you ill while you were writing
your journal?

ROBERT STUBBS
I had a fever.

SILVESTER
Would that explain why your hand- writing
deteriorates page by page, why your
sentences cease to hold together in any way
that is sensible?

ROBERT STUBBS
The pen shook in my hand is all...

SILVESTER
And your judgement Mr Stubbs - was
that very shaken also?

Laughter. GARROW knows this is going badly, and may get worse.

SILVESTER
Mr Stubbs - why were you a passenger
on board the Zong?

ROBERT STUBBS
I was in need of passage.

SILVESTER
Why?

ROBERT STUBBS

I had been appointed Governor of
Annamboe by the African company but had
left there...

SILVESTER

Why?

STUBBS hesitating:

SILVESTER

You are under oath Mr Stubbs...

ROBERT STUBBS

I had been suspended.

SILVESTER

Why?

ROBERT STUBBS

Abusing my position.

SILVESTER

Abusing your position? In what way?

ROBERT STUBBS

Seeking to make private profit.

STUBBS character is exposed and his credibility dying.

SILVESTER

So you found yourself dumped on the coast
of Guinea? Until picked up by the Zong.
And then picked up once again by the
insurance Company as a witness!

GARROW looks wounded. SILVESTER has killed STUBBS credibility.
HUGH GILBERT looks to PETER GILBERT with grim dissatisfaction,
even blame. PETER GILBERT looks embarrassed.

JUDGE BULLER

Mr Garrow - any more witnesses for the
prosecution?

GARROW

My Lord - I call Gustavus Vassa.

The GILBERTS look at each other. VASSA comes to the witness box
as STUBBS departs it. The novelty of a black witness is not lost
in the public gallery. His appearance provokes much observation
and conjecture. GARROW and VASSA share a look.

CUT TO:

58

INT. OLD BAILEY. COURTROOM. DAY 6.

58

The Court listen to VASSA in solemn silence.

GUSTAVUS VASSA

The whole ship's cargo is confined
together in the hold. So many that there
is no room even to move your head...

GARROW

This fraud involves a journey across the Middle Passage. You would not wish to have a narrative upon it?

JUDGE BULLER

Only if it bear some relation to the indictment.

SILVESTER

Slaves thrown over - necessity or not?

VASSA, a passionate outburst:

GUSTAVUS VASSA

It is never a necessity to murder us!

JUDGE BULLER

Mr Vassa you must curb your temper.

GUSTAVUS VASSA

If I am angry I am a savage. If I am sanguine I am not a man.

BULLER discomfited but acknowledging this:

JUDGE BULLER

Yes...quite possibly.

GARROW

Mr Vassa will you please give us some idea of your experience at sea?

GUSTAVUS VASSA

I served in the British navy for seven years with my Master; I have worked on merchant ships in voyages to North America, the West Indies and the North Pole.

GARROW

And as such a veteran of the seas you are familiar with the notion of a ship rendered 'foul and leaky'? The Zong itself described and claimed so. 'By perils of the sea and contrary currents, the ship rendered foul and leaky. And therefore retarded in her voyage. Captain Collingwood and the ship's owners claim this was because there was crippling worm damage to the bottom of the boat. Can you comment?

GUSTAVUS VASSA

Ship worm. Teredo worms. In fact, salt
water clams.

(MORE)

GUSTAVUS VASSA (cont'd)
They bore into submerged timber. Marine
bivalve molluscs in the family
Teredinidae. Hence Teredo worms.

GARROW
And if I tell you that the Zong was
copper bottomed. What say you then?

GUSTAVUS VASSA
Any ship that is filled with copper
plating on the underside of its hull
is impervious to Teredo worms.

GARROW
So the claims by Captain Collingwood
and its owners that the ship was
rendered foul and leaky?

GUSTAVUS VASSA
Impossible.

GARROW
Thank you Mr Vassa. No more questions.

VASSA has undermined the defence in a quite unexpected way.
SOUTHHOUSE looks delighted. We pick out MELVILLE telling HILL:

LORD MELVILLE
Garrow excels himself with the Negro.

HILL, unhappily acknowledging this.

CUT TO:

63 **EXT. HILL'S HOUSE. HALL. DAY 6.**

63

As SARAH is about to leave, MARY approaches.

MARY CHRISTIE
Ma'am...?

SARAH
I shall find a hotel...

MARY CHRISTIE
And Samuel? And myself?

SARAH
We shall be reunited yet.

64 **INT. OLD BAILEY. COURTROOM. DAY 6.**

64

SILVESTER is examining CAPTAIN COLLINGWOOD.

SILVESTER

Captain Collingwood, I am sure you are as distressed as I am that this case has been represented in some quarters as murder, a policy no doubt to inflame a jury. But let us be clear so that emotions do not undermine deliberation. Let us part company with any claim that actual persons have been thrown overboard. This is a case of chattels or goods. Blacks be goods and property. The case is the same as if horses had been thrown overboard.

We pick out VASSA.

GARROW

My lord my learned friend is not allowing the prisoner to speak in his own defence he is addressing the Jury in how they should feel.

JUDGE BULLER

Mr Silvester - refrain. And Captain Collingwood - if you will?

COLLINGWOOD speaks in his own defence.

CAPTAIN COLLINGWOOD

It was NOT the case that the slaves were thrown overboard in order to throw the loss onto the underwriters. Do you not think the apprehension of necessity justified when my crew themselves suffered so severely? Seven out of seventeen died on their way to Jamaica or after their arrival there. The cargo of the ship and its crew died from want of sustenance. They did not die from want of a commander!

COLLINGWOOD's words in his own defence have struck a chord with the Jury.

JUDGE BULLER

Mr Garrow?

GARROW

Captain Collingwood - you were, until you took this command, a slave ship surgeon?

CAPTAIN COLLINGWOOD

Eleven voyages as doctor.

GARROW

But none of them as Captain of a slaver?

CAPTAIN COLLINGWOOD

No.

GARROW

Your inexperience did not trouble you?

CAPTAIN COLLINGWOOD

Nor the owners of the ship. In fact they were reassured that the welfare of all those on ship would be safeguarded by my previous experience.

GARROW, disgusted irony:

GARROW

'The welfare of all those on ship'.
(beat) After your wrong identification of Jamaica for Hispaniola and the necessity of sailing back three hundred miles to the windward, what did you do?

CAPTAIN COLLINGWOOD

I chose to hold a consultation with the crew subsequently.

GARROW

And what decision taken?

CAPTAIN COLLINGWOOD

To destroy part of the slaves and to put the rest and the crew to short allowance.

GARROW

That is how you 'rectified' your mistake?

CAPTAIN COLLINGWOOD

To save the ship!

GARROW

Because the situation had become catastrophic?

CAPTAIN COLLINGWOOD

Yes.

GARROW

The ship retarded by perils of the sea?
The strong currents hindering your
already belated journey to Jamaica. A
state of emergency no less?

CAPTAIN COLLINGWOOD
Sufficient for the throwing over to be
a necessity.

GARROW
So presumably you seized the goods
nearest to hand?

CAPTAIN COLLINGWOOD
I beg your pardon?

GARROW
In the dire circumstances in which you
found yourself you jettisoned at
random?

COLLINGWOOD hesitates, not sure how to answer.

CAPTAIN COLLINGWOOD
No...

GARROW
Then who did you choose first? The
women and children? The sick? Those
who would sell for least money?

CAPTAIN COLLINGWOOD
We were in want of water! The
healthiest would need least, would
survive best on short allowance.

It's a good response.

GARROW
The healthiest also fetching the best
price at market? Was that not the only
real necessity here?! Not that you were
in want of water but that you were in
want of the market! And you decided, as
the fastidious servant of your
shareholders to get rid of any slave
you deemed to fetch a price of less
than the cost of insuring them!

CAPTAIN COLLINGWOOD
I am a fastidious servant, sir. Of my
ship.

GARROW
If you are so fastidious what became
of the ship's log?

CAPTAIN COLLINGWOOD

Left with the agent in Jamaica. Now
lost.

GARROW
How convenient.

JUDGE BULLER
Anything else Mr Garrow?

GARROW
No my Lord.

JUDGE BULLER
Then we shall adjourn until tomorrow.

We pick out MELVILLE close to HILL:

LORD MELVILLE
It may be possible that you have it in
your power to ruin the preening Garrow
entirely.

HILL bitterly ironic:

HILL
I may employ a pistol.

LORD MELVILLE
You do not have to challenge him a duel
to seek your satisfaction. Aim at him in
another way. Undo Garrow the man and we
shall see the noisome barrister removed
from the Old Bailey.

GARROW aware that MELVILLE and HILL are talking about him.

CUT TO:

65 **EXT. STREET. DAY 6.** 65

GARROW walks in the rain. He looks at the sky, a realization. The rain no longer an inconvenience. GARROW smiles. It's a 'eureka' moment.

CUT TO:

66 **INT. GARROW'S CHAMBERS. NIGHT 6.** 66

GARROW with STUBBS journal, looking feverishly. He comes across a page - curled up and yellow - where STUBBS stopped his entries and the ink has run. GARROW knows that it's not what's written that's important but the journal itself.

CUT TO:

67 **INT. OLD BAILEY. CORRIDOR. DAY 7.** 67

The next day. HILL, MELVILLE, FARMER closeted together.

FARMER

The writ is already drawn.

MELVILLE to HILL:

LORD MELVILLE

On your behalf I took that liberty.

HILL

And so it merely needs serving?

SOUTHUSE and GARROW walk in. SOUTHUSE brushing off rain.

SOUTHUSE

Foul weather.

GARROW

I could not hope for better.

SOUTHUSE looking at him uncertainly. GARROW, aware of the 'confederation' closeted together.

GARROW

Who is the man with Hill and Melville?

SOUTHUSE sees Farmer for the first time. They share a look. They recognise each other.

*

*

SOUTHUSE

It is of no matter.

SOUTHHOUSE indicates KELSALL - waiting in the corridor - to GARROW. It's also a way of deflecting GARROW from FARMER. SOUTHHOUSE goes and sits beside KELSALL. GARROW suspicious.

*

SOUTHHOUSE

You know you are not bound to be character witness for Captain Collingwood.

JAMES KELSALL

I know I choose it.

SOUTHHOUSE

Come, be honest, the owners of the Zong choose it.

KELSALL doesn't respond. We pick out COLLINGWOOD, watching this from the dock. Clearly not happy.

SOUTHHOUSE

The muster roll of the ship. It is your late nephew's name alongside you. Daniel was his name?

KELSALL - this is raw, hard.

JAMES KELSALL

I had made assurances to my sister of his welfare.

SOUTHHOUSE

And hard to bear knowing he may still be alive but for Collingwood's command. Was that the cause of your dispute?

JAMES KELSALL

No.

SOUTHHOUSE

No? Daniel's unnecessary death did not distress and vex you? Or was it that there had already been so many unnecessary deaths?

JAMES KELSALL

I cannot answer you!

SOUTHHOUSE

I was not in attendance when my wife died. I was engaged in some case of theft. I should have been at her bed but she left this place alone. And I did drink to forget that.

(MORE)

SOUTHHOUSE (cont'd)

But Mr Kelsall you have an opportunity
to attend to your nephew again. If you
think the truth to suffice.

KELSALL doesn't respond - because he finds it too hard to.
SOUTHHOUSE leaves him and approaches GARROW.

SOUTHHOUSE
Kelsall is in some difficulty...

GARROW looking at SOUTHHOUSE, sees that he's troubled by something(MELVILLE, HILL, FARMER).

GARROW
And are you?

SOUTHHOUSE shaking his head, a half smile.

COURT CLERK (V.O)
The court session is resumed!

CUT TO:

68

INT. OLD BAILEY. COURTROOM. DAY 7.

68

SILVESTER is examining KELSALL or rather listening to him speak of COLLINGWOOD.

JAMES KELSALL
I have served with Mr Collingwood when
he was ships surgeon and under him
when he was Captain.

SILVESTER
And your opinion of him Mr Kelsall?

KELSALL, not entirely convinced in his response - or convincing.
He looks nervously at COLLINGWOOD in the dock.

JAMES KELSALL
Captain Collingwood is an able man and
a good commander.

SILVESTER
And an honest one?

JAMES KELSALL
I am...I am sure of it.

GARROW stands up to cross examine KELSALL.

GARROW
My Lord, if I may...?

GARROW, taking in the 'conspirators' beside BULLER at the bench
and then up in the public gallery - the GILBERTS and VASSA. He
won't flinch from his duty.

GARROW

"An honest man"? As you are Mr Kelsall?

JAMES KELSALL

I should like to think so.

GARROW

Did you have cause to dispute with Captain Collingwood on any occasion?

KELSALL, not keen to answer, hesitates.

JAMES KELSALL

There was none.

GARROW

I remind you you are under oath Mr. Kelsall. (beat) Did you think Captain Collingwood's misidentification of Jamaica for Hispaniola a 'mere' mistake, an unavoidable accident?

SILVESTER, objecting:

SILVESTER

My Lord, Mr Kelsall is here to bear witness to Captain Collingwood's character.....!

GARROW

My Lord, this is pertinent..

JUDGE BULLER

Allowed.(beat) Answer the question.

JAMES KELSALL

The mistake having been made Captain Collingwood took measures as Commander...there were only five and a half Dutch butts, 3 full of sweet water, enough for only 4 days. Hence the jettisoning. And everyone put on short allowance.

GARROW

And for some sickly members of the crew - like your nephew - that proved a fatal development did it not?

SILVESTER

My Lord what is this to do with the character of Captain Collingwood?!

GARROW

I am trying to get at Mr Kelsall's proper estimation of the man!

JUDGE BULLER

Then ask a question that demonstrates
it.

GARROW

Did you feel Captain Collingwood's actions were ultimately responsible for the death of your nephew? Was that the reason for the dispute you will not own to, is that the reason you were suspended as first mate?!

JAMES KELSALL

It was none of that!

GARROW

Then what was it?! What was it you found so hard to take, that you could not contemplate?!

JAMES KELSALL

Sir...

GARROW

Some change? Some change that made all the difference Mr Kelsall....

Pause. KELSALL, making a decision to tell the truth regardless of the scrutiny of COLLINGWOOD.

JAMES KELSALL

It rained sir. It rained.

GARROW

(Rhetorical. For the Court)

It rained.

This revelation electrifies the court. See COLLINGWOOD - he knows it's disaster.

JAMES KELSALL

A Heavy downfall on 30th November. We collected hundreds of gallons of rainwater. But despite this, on 1st December, more slaves were thrown overboard. That was the reason Captain Collingwood suspended me as First mate. Because I would not go along with it. There was no need to throw over any more blacks. There was no want of water.

We pick out VASSA looking on, saddened at the emergence of this but heartened by its emergence all the same. SILVESTER, needing somehow to rescue the case.

SILVESTER

My Lord, I wish the jury and the Court
to note that this witness may have
perjured himself and therefore any
evidence...

JUDGE BULLER

How so Mr Silvester?

SILVESTER

He describes Captain Collingwood as an able commander and then condemns him!

GARROW

My Lord I would submit that Mr Kelsall does not perjure himself. Captain Collingwood IS an able commander. If, as the Captain of a slaver his duty was to make a profit. He did so - by ridding himself of slaves unlikely to fetch what they were insured for or were simply unrecoverable. In that he has been most able.

GARROW, at this final flourish, cannot resist looking defiantly in the direction of HILL and MELVILLE.

CUT TO:

69

INT. OLD BAILEY. COURTROOM. DAY 7.

69

JUDGE BULLER in his summing up to the jury.

JUDGE BULLER

It is certainly worthy of observation that our Legislature can every session find time to enquire into and regulate the manner of killing a partridge, that no abuse should be committed and that he should be fairly shot yet... Well we shall let that be. And I am not required to direct you on the slaves as goods but merely whether these goods were jettisoned voluntarily or in necessity. That the claim of necessity was false and fraudulent if they were indeed thrown over after the rain. About which you must decide.

As the JURY confer and deliberate, MELVILLE shoots a look of displeasure at BULLER.

COURT CLERK

You have reached a verdict.

JURY FOREMAN

We have.

COURT CLERK

And how do you find the prisoner on the indictment - guilty or not guilty?

JURY FOREMAN

Guilty.

GARROW looks immediately to VASSA who reacts with some satisfaction. THEN:

JURY FOREMAN

But we humbly make recommendations to mercy My Lord.

VASSA shakes his head in dismay.

The GILBERTS approach the bench (from the public gallery)

PETER GILBERT

My Lord. We also wish to make a recommendation to mercy. Liverpool Assurance do not wish to take a ...moral position in this action.

HUGH GILBERT

We were only ever in the business of recompense.

Pause.

JUDGE BULLER

Very well. Captain Collingwood I sentence you to two years imprisonment. You will be put on a Hulk ship.

SILVESTER looks to GARROW. He's pleased at the outcome. GARROW solemn. BULLER leans into MELVILLE.

JUDGE BULLER (QUIETLY)

The law will not do your bidding. Or confound Mr Garrow for you.

LORD MELVILLE (SHARP)

I do not need the law when I have the consent of decent Englishmen.

GARROW smiles.

GARROW

It is even less pretty than when you
are curmudgeonly.

SOUTHHOUSE, mock aggrieved.

SOUTHHOUSE

I know nothing of that.

They laugh. GARROW is approached by FARMER. *

FARMER

William Garrow?

GARROW

You have business with me sir?

FARMER

You are served with a writ from the
Court of Kings Bench. In the name of
an action for damages by Sir Arthur
for the act of Criminal Conversation
with the plaintiff's wife.

GARROW looks to SOUTHHOUSE. HILL, MELVILLE look on with grim *
satisfaction as FARMER goes to join them. GARROW wondering what
is about to befall him.

END OF EP ONE