

ACT 1: A DECEPTION.

THE PERSONS OF THE PLAY

- Richard Blake, Captain of the Kestrel, out of Bristol.
- His small but Trusty Crew.
- Auralia Perez deLyon, Mistress of Bernard Gui, notable Jesuit within the Inquisition.
- Her Spanish escorts of the moment, Armed and Responsible.
- Fishmen of The Deeps, all, too, Armed, and also Most Dangerous.

April 1582

At Walsingham's direction - Captain Blake: intercept one Auralia deLyon, mistress of Bernard Gui (Jesuit, and notable within the Inquisition). Upon the Serez road to a lonely Spanish cove; awaiting there a Galleon for transport, but to where Walsingham does not share.

Blake, now Spain bound upon his good ship Kestrel at Walsingham's request. En-route; A shadowing vessel, thence attack; Spanish, yet, perhaps happenstance. Blake drives them off with seamanship and fine gunnery.

The designated cove. Night. Galleon at anchor spied by chance. The Kestrel drifts away south, then luff's up the coast and behind the point and thence the next cove, riding low, dark and silent, unobserved.

A plan formed. A shore party picked.

Cut in-land, through dunes to the Serez road. A trap is laid. A wait ensues.

Hours on, with pre-dawn light upon the eastern sky, a coach and outriders, three, approach.

Blake and lantern swing, steps out to stop. A natural Spanish learned young fools the few for some of the time; that there is trouble about, and afeared of betrayal she is to come with him and his stout men to the galleon anchored yonder, in the designated cove. The escort, fooled, turns back.

Hurried now, deLyon convinced she has evaded betrayal, through dunes to ship's boat.

Aboard the Kestrel. Deception laid bare. Mortified she is taken, for ransom of worse! As first light creeps above the horizon, the Kestrel flees the cove barely as Galleon Spanish is alerted.

The voyage home. A night alarum! Boarders rising from the waters. A battle then, Blake and crew against claw and trident, fish men from the deeps! A stout resist from Blake and

Crew sees them gone, overboard to the last, dead or fled alive. Within cabin locked Auralia deLyon screams and sobs, frustration raging out of reach of her fishy saviours.

Distraught she learns. Pleading now, for her family is rich, perhaps money, favours, gold, would persuade Blake to free her before accursed England draws close.

But, caught in the act of discard, dropping notes overboard. And more, for her despair rises, she admits to drawing the fish men to the boat, for the necklace worn a gift from beloved Gui's associate, Romeroz Estefan, a name familiar to Blake from the year last and in the Lair of the White Worm. Promised her necklace worn still would save her from any barbarity at the hands of the English or others to keep her safe from harm. She, mortified, declares them liars all. Weeping then, stripped of gems, jewellery and finer garments, she is locked below to Bristol...