

ACT 3, PART 1: SPIRIT CAST

THE PERSONS OF THE PLAY:

- Captain Richard Blake.
- His Trusty Crew of the Kestrel.
- Auralia Perez deLyon (Mistress of Bernard Gui, notable within the Inquisition).
- Jules du Plessis a friend and acquaintance of Captain Richard Blake.
- Kerr Avon, noted man of physic and philosophy, also a friend and acquaintance of Captain Richard Blake.
- Le Comte Guillame d'Avercy, a man of great learning relating to Physic, Balancing of Humors, a Diagnostician without compare.
- Zubiya, a confidante of Le Comte, of unusual learnings.
- Rogues, various, in the employ of factions, various, and others yet undeclared

June 1582:

The Kestrel docked on the Thames at Walsingham's request, for the assembled company of Crew, their Captain, and companions du Plessis and Avon are to return Auralia Perez deLyon to Spain, a ransom perhaps paid, or another arrangement made, is not clear. A wooden box of Hawthorn is also delivered with instruction it is not to be opened until at sea.

An isolated cottage then directed, North of the Fleet, and much beyond the Walls. There greeted by two Roughts knowing nothing, expecting much, such as pay for Walsingham's service (but know not the name, nor much of any else) at pick up by Blake, Captain.

An upper room, a palate of straw upon the floor, there lies Auralia deLyon. Alas, Mistress deLyon is barely of this world. Her once glorious cloth (as a Mistress should be clothed), what little there is remaining, is torn and dirty, she is bruised, battered and about her body burned as if by irons. Clear to all her beating and interrogation.

Blake then, a man of some loyalty to the Lady Fair in any place, threatens Roughts with sword and words should they have been responsible. Their denial and quaking rings some true perhaps, for all their employ this day is to keep her fair and true since she was delivered by cart some hours before, until he should arrive some hours later. This they have fulfilled, and will be away henceforth. Blake is in his fury at such treatment threatens them with dire retribution should such words prove dissembling. They are much cowed by his wrath.

With Mistress deLyon rolling barely with the world Our Company departs, but clearly watchers watch, for horseman further up the stream are seen, and spur forward as ours ride away with Mistress deLyon. Alas, their error to assume quarry on the move might be less well defended than that at rest: Blake hangs back, as does du Plessis. Blake's brace of pistol shots even upon horse and some fine mounted swordplay from du Plessis leave the Rough riders seen off or dead as du Plessis' sword, the dogs there with them fleeing at the sound and smell of Blake's powder.

At haste, lest there be further mounted Roughs, to the Bridge Inn upon the Fleet, horses abandoned, and a local man with river boat hired there to take them fast to the Kestrel moored down Fleet upon the Thames without further challenge.

Such good time is made to the Kestrel, its crew already prepared, that they are away with the tide in the early hours without further ado.

Much at sea in Channel, Avon opens the Hawthorn box to discover the deLyon jewellery (most especially the necklace) and a note from the Henry Percy, (9th Earl of Northumberland, much to Kerr Avon's disgust), that it is just a trinket and has no Heptarchich significance. Avon is then much puzzled that the box enclosed should be Hawthorn, despite Percy's implicit denial of such need upon the note within.

Days pass at sea, and Auralia recovers under the tender ministrations of Avon, her bruises and burns treated with Avon's salves and unguents, and she slowly awakens from the nightmare she has been within these last weeks.

But all is not well for as some days pass southward in the bay of Biscay it is clear to Avon she is unwell. At first put down to the rolling seas, her condition worsens further and clearly no usual sickness of the sea, and is much to Kerr Avon's puzzlement as she is unresponsive to his draughts and emetics. Finally, and within short hours as her sickness worsens she lapses into delirium, mumbling incoherently in her fever dream.

It is Kerr Avon then ascertains through his Arts of Diagnostication that this is no ordinary sickness that he might yet cure though his wiles and potent draughts, and is a challenge to his abilities to identify alone. In wisdom he seeks guidance from an old friend and colleague, by happenstance now living near the French coast.

Captain Blake seeks port at a fishing village to Avon's description upon the coast of France. There, they hope to find Avon's old (and Old) friend Le Comte Guillaume d'Avercy at Chateau d'Avercy within Bordeaux.

It is with great fortune and all credit to Blake's skills of seamanship that the fishing village is found, but much to the consternation of the locals as an English ship sails in amongst the fishing vessels. The Mayor is called. The townsfolk arm themselves. The goats are hidden from the annoying English. It is then, and only then that Jules du Plessis (Vicomte) steps ashore. A gesture here, the wave of an embroidered cuff there, and a shrug, and the best cart in the village is hurriedly provided for the Vicomte, with the cleanest cart driver, and offer of the Mayor's prettiest daughter to accompany him.

Auralia, cart borne to the Chateau, where Le Comte Guillaume d'Avercy, diagnoses most assuredly this is something beyond his knowledge and calls another, by coincidence a guest: Zubiya, a shockingly learned woman of Eastern, perhaps Persian lineage but with great wisdom and learning of both Magick and Physic. Wisdom ascendant, she sees a curse of Magick rather than a weakness or imbalance of the fleshy humours with a clearer vision than either of the learned men. With her insight Kerr Avon undertakes Arts to identify the spirit within as Sphandor,, that spirit of Mercury. Thence, to undertake the banishment of spirit, hard fought it seems, but a success, and the spirit serpent poisoning

Auralia is brought forth from her body and cast out, leaving her to rest in a deep but untroubled slumber.