

## SEAS 2 – Heavy Cargo

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- Food
- Imperialism & internalised racism
- Physical violence & injury (inc. loss of consciousness)
- Kidnapping & interrogation
- Threats of violence
- Grief & loss
- Discussions of: religion, animal harm
- Mentions of: alcohol, family death, guns & blades, torture, illness
- SFX: ocean & seagulls, fire, choking, misophonia (eating sounds)

Trice Forgotten – SEAS 2 – Heavy Cargo

**NEMO MARTIN**

Hello friends!

This is Nemo Martin, creator of Trice Forgotten.

I wanted to come in and thank you for checking out our swashbuckling adventure!

There are a lot of people on deck at Rusty Quill helping to make this podcast possible, and the best way you can support us and our show is by spreading the word!

Tell your friends and pirate nemeses, share us on social media with the hashtag #triceforgotten, rate and review us on your podcatcher of choice, maybe even play it on repeat for your aquarium buddies!

We are still a small company and we want to keep bringing more work to writers and performers in future seasons, but we can only do that if people listen and spread the word!

If you want to contribute to us directly, (and get first word on new projects, behind the scenes content, exclusive events, and more) consider joining the Rusty Quill Patreon over at [patreon.com/rustyquill](https://patreon.com/rustyquill)

Now please, enjoy the episode.

**[SHOW THEME - INTRO]**

**BAKER**

Rusty Quill Presents Trice Forgotten.

Trice Forgotten – SEAS 2 – Heavy Cargo

Episode Two. Heavy Cargo

**[THEME FINISHES]**

**[NANI and SIVA in NANI's small kitchen. The sounds of several dishes cooking – bubbling, steaming, and the hiss of oil as ingredients are added to the pan]**

**(NANI is attending to all of these dishes, singing softly to herself.)**

**(Their voices echo, this is a memory)**

**NANI**

**(singing)**

Khoka ghumalo, para juralo

Khoka ghumalo, para juralo...

**[SIVA comes bolting into the kitchen, triumphant.]**

**[NANI bustles about the kitchen, moving kitchenware and utensils, measuring and adding ingredients]**

**SIVA**

Nana, Nani! It happened! They promoted me! ASSISTANT CARTOGRAPHER SIVA! Lieutenant-Colonel Shaw himself said I was the youngest boy they had ever promoted and - and I have a new uniform, and Private Pearson cleared out some old beer bottles from a corner of the mess so I would have somewhere to work, and I have two boxes, one to sit on and one to draw my maps

**(contented sigh)**

it's been a most wonderful day.

Trice Forgotten – SEAS 2 – Heavy Cargo

**(No response from NANI.)**

**SIVA (CONT'D)**

**(worried)**

Nani? You... do think it's wonderful?

**NANI**

**(arch)**

Mmm. Here you are in my kitchen and not a greeting for your Nani, eh?

**SIVA**

**(understanding)**

Nani!

**SIVA (CONT'D)**

Vanakam Nani, ithu atputhamana vaasanai! [hello Nani, it smells wonderful!]

**(he giggles)**

**NANI**

Flattery, is it? Perhaps you could manage to talk and roll rotis at the same time since you're such a clever boy?

**SIVA**

Yes, yes, look, here I go, rolling rotis. See?

**[He pulls the bowl of dough and rolling stone towards him. He begins rolling rotis.]**

**(A couple of beats of quiet as SIVA rolls but he can't contain himself)**

Trice Forgotten – SEAS 2 – Heavy Cargo

**SIVA (CONT'D)**

But do you not think it is exciting?!

**NANI**

**(looking at the rotis)**

They're too thick, they won't bake properly. Put some muscle into it.

**SIVA**

Nani!

**NANI**

**(beat)**

Anbe, nee santhosamaga yirupathal ennakum santhosam. [Dear, I'm happy because you're happy.] I always knew you were a bright one.

**SIVA**

This could be the start of something great, Nani. I'm already ahead with my Latin and Greek, and if I work hard - Private Pearson says I could go anywhere in the Empire with what they're teaching us.

**NANI**

And where will you go, when you have had enough of me?

**SIVA**

Nani - I'll never leave you.

**(beat)**

But perhaps Cambridge.

Trice Forgotten – SEAS 2 – Heavy Cargo

**NANI**

Cambridge? Go and bring the mallung. And what will you do there?

**[SIVA fetches the pot]**

**SIVA**

I'll read History, of course. The progress of the world, the great men who shaped it, laid out like a book for me to understand! And then - I'll work at the Queen's Museum.

**NANI**

The Queen's Museum! With all the treasures of their history, and they still feel they need to come here and take ours.

**SIVA**

**(thinking she doesn't believe in him)**

I can do it, Nani. The British in the camp say that I am improving every day.

**[A noise begins softly in the background, a noise that shouldn't be there: the creaking of ropes on a ship and the warping of wood.]**

**NANI**

It's not you I'm worried about, paetiya.

**(carefully)**

**(she sounds further away)**

I just want you to remember... your future is not written just yet.

**[The present. The quiet movement of water against the hull, the cry of birds, and not a hint of breeze. The kind of heat hum that signifies stillness,**

Trice Forgotten – SEAS 2 – Heavy Cargo

**stultification. BAKER coiling ropes and stowing them methodically, humming to himself as he works. SIVA approaches uncertainly.]**

**SIVA**

Ahem. Good morning.

**BAKER**

Trouble sleeping?

**SIVA**

**(forced cheer)**

I would like to be helpful, please.

**BAKER**

Helpful?

**SIVA**

You are... unfamiliar with the concept?

**BAKER**

**(wry)**

You could say that. What did you have in mind?

**SIVA**

Perhaps I could help with these-

**(trying to impress with knowledge)**

Lines.

**BAKER**

Trice Forgotten – SEAS 2 – Heavy Cargo

Ropes.

**SIVA**

Ropes, that you're folding -

**BAKER**

Stowing.

**SIVA**

**(a flicker of frustration)**

Stowing!

**BAKER**

**(throwing him a bone)**

When you prepare a rope for a task, it becomes a line. These are unemployed, so they're just ropes.

**(gentle)**

Why don't you relax? There'll be plenty to do once Alestes is up.

**SIVA**

Then... perhaps I could prepare breakfast for when she awakes?

**BAKER**

If you can make anything out of stale hardtack and dust, I reckon even the Captain will crack a smile.

**SIVA**

**(confused)**

Trice Forgotten – SEAS 2 – Heavy Cargo

Stale hardtack - ?

**BAKER**

Stores are still empty. In her haste to bring you aboard, the Captain didn't finish her weekly shopping.

**SIVA**

Then we should make for a port posthaste, should we not?

**BAKER**

**(light tease)**

Why didn't I think of that!

We're becalmed, lad.

**(explanation)**

No wind. We're stuck.

I hate to say it but if something doesn't turn up soon, we could be in trouble.

**SIVA**

**(pointing)**

Something... like that?

**[BAKER puts down his rope and squints at where SIVA is pointing.]**

**(BAKER starts to laugh, astonished.)**

**BAKER**

I don't believe it.

**SIVA**

Trice Forgotten – SEAS 2 – Heavy Cargo

It is, isn't it?

**BAKER**

A boat –

**SIVA**

- absolutely loaded with food!

**BAKER**

You got any more tricks like that up your sleeve? Can't summon me a pint, could you?

**SIVA**

Jackfruit, kangkong, guava - and those are the ripest mangoes I've ever seen!

**(yelling to the boat)**

AHOY THERE, TRAVELLER! COME ABOARD WEARY-!

**BAKER**

Woah, woah, woah, what are you doing?

**SIVA**

They have food! I thought we needed -

**BAKER**

You don't invite someone on board without the Captain's say-so!

**(hypotheticals)**

What if they're dangerous? What if they're carrying sickness?

**SIVA**

Trice Forgotten – SEAS 2 – Heavy Cargo

**(alarmed)**

Do you think they have sickness??

**BAKER**

That's not the - it's protocol to ask - never mind. Too late now.

**[BUMP as the boat gently hits the side of the Neta.]**

**SIVA**

**(gasping hypothetical, loud whisper)**

What if they're a pirate?

**BAKER**

**(amused)**

With mangoes?

**[Creaking as someone very tall and very muscular climbs the ladder onto the deck. NOOR lands with a thump.]**

**SIVA**

**(awed)**

Gosh. They could lift me like a sack of flour.

**NOOR**

Well met, friends.

**BAKER**

Forgive my young crewmate's enthusiasm in hailing you - he's new to the waters.

Trice Forgotten – SEAS 2 – Heavy Cargo

**(introduction)**

Baker.

**NOOR**

Noor.

**BAKER**

That's a handsome haul you've got there, Noor.

**NOOR**

A productive day's work, alhamdulillah.

**BAKER**

I don't suppose we could interest you in -

**SIVA**

**(finding his voice)**

Siva!

**NOOR**

**(confused)**

Interest me in Siva?

**SIVA**

No, I'm - I'm Siva. Sivapathasundaram. And, and this is Baker - well, you, you know that, and this is the

**(carefully)**

Trice Forgotten – SEAS 2 – Heavy Cargo

Net-ah-wan-sun, that is the, the ship, the ship that we're standing on, and what you don't see is Captain Alestes, she's - she's doing important, ah, captain things down - downstairs, right now and - and you're Noor, which, um, you know, obviously, and - and we'd like some food please.

**(A beat. Then NOOR bursts out laughing - a strangely magical sound, pure enjoyment, and it relaxes everyone on deck.)**

**NOOR**

Nice to meet you, Siva of the Netaoansom. As for the food -

**BAKER**

I think what the lad means to ask is if we can make a trade - though we've little to barter with.

**NOOR**

**(confused)**

Your stores are empty?

**BAKER**

As an Englishman's heart.

**NOOR**

But I don't understand.

**BAKER**

What?

**NOOR**

Trice Forgotten – SEAS 2 – Heavy Cargo

This is one of the most fertile island chains on the Indian coast. You can weigh anchor on any spit of land within a few miles and find sustenance.

**SIVA**

You... you mean you found all this?

**NOOR**

Not all of it, but - enough to barter for that which I could not forage, yes.

**(Beat.)**

**SIVA**

Could you show me?

**BAKER**

Siva...

**SIVA**

**(to NOOR)**

Please?

**BAKER**

**(quiet)**

I'm not sure it's such a good idea for you to leave the ship and we can't impose

-

**NOOR**

**(to BAKER)**

Trice Forgotten – SEAS 2 – Heavy Cargo

No imposition. There's a cay a few miles to the West. I could have him back by high sun.

**(BAKER is torn. He hesitates.)**

**SIVA**

Please, Baker... We've got nothing to trade, and I promise I'll work hard to earn my share of supper!

**BAKER**

**(sigh)**

Back by midday then. You'll know where to find us.

**(wry)**

Not like we're going anywhere.

**[The beach of a small cay in the Indian Ocean. The rush of ocean waves. Lush, enticing chittering and rustling from the surrounding Sri Lankan forest - bird calls, the ever-present click and hum of insects. NOOR and SIVA have finished their foraging expedition and are loading the rowing boat]**

**(noises of effort from SIVA and NOOR)**

**(SIVA is elated with their success, singing proudly at the top of his lungs)**

**SIVA**

**(singing "The British Grenadier")**

Some talk of Alexander and some of Hercules! Of Hector and Lysander and such great names as these!

Trice Forgotten – SEAS 2 – Heavy Cargo

But of all the world's brave heroes, there's none that can compare! With a tow,  
row, row, row, row, row, to Siva a-a-a-nd Noor!

**(NOOR laughs.)**

**SIVA (CONT'D)**

I think that's the last of the haul. All safely packed - sorry, stowed away. I can't wait to show Baker - you know he says people used to come from miles around to taste his cooking? - of course, I'm no slouch in the kitchen myself, I assist my Nani all the time –

**(Pain threatens to overwhelm - SIVA pushes himself out of the memory.)**

**SIVA (CONT'D)**

Assisted - I mean I called her my Nani but of course, she wasn't actually my blood, but I do think of her as my blood, or I - I did think of her as... - anyway, my actual parents were Tamil and not Bengali like my Nani - so she learned Tamil recipes for me - and I learned Bengali ones from her - do you have a family?

**(NOOR makes the briefest of uncomfortable noises but it hardly matters because SIVA ploughs on.)**

**SIVA (CONT'D)**

And Captain Alestes! I can't imagine she won't be pleased - not that I've yet to see her pleased - but she must be capable of it, she is a human being, after all - I mean, I think she is -

**NOOR**

A good meal softens even the hardest of hearts.

Trice Forgotten – SEAS 2 – Heavy Cargo

**SIVA**

Very wise! Very wise indeed! Do you cook?

**NOOR**

I've not much skill for it. But then, I never had much call - for me, little surmounts the pleasure of crunching fresh raw radishes.

**SIVA**

**(shocked)**

Oh no, no, no, no, that won't do at all - you must let me make you a curry to thank you, chicken with cashews, perhaps - or white fish stewed tenderly with tamarind - some mutton rolls on the side -

NOOR

**(gentle)**

Or, perhaps, there is no need to cook meat at all.

**(Beat.)**

**SIVA**

Oh. I - I - I - I'm so sorry, I didn't realise - are you a monk?

**NOOR**

**(amused)**

Not to my knowledge.

**SIVA**

No, it's just that mostly when people don't eat meat it's because they're very....extremely.... pious. Is it... prohibited for you?

Trice Forgotten – SEAS 2 – Heavy Cargo

**NOOR**

No, I just... prefer not to.

**SIVA**

Never at all? Not even good old "meat and two veg", as Lieutenant Colonel Shaw says - though I confess I'm never quite sure what the meat in question is supposed to be, it's always so tough and grey -

**NOOR**

One day I simply looked at my plate and thought - "not for me".

**SIVA**

**(fascinated)**

I see.

**(brightening)**

Egg rice and hoppers, then!

**NOOR**

Not eggs either, I'm afraid.

**SIVA**

**(astounded)**

Not EGGS?

**NOOR**

I do not wish to take anything from an animal it will not give me willingly. So no - not eggs, or milk.

Trice Forgotten – SEAS 2 – Heavy Cargo

**SIVA**

But the Bible says that the promised land was flowing with milk and honey - surely if God wants us to -

**NOOR**

Not my Bible. Nor my God.

**SIVA**

**(considering)**

Oh. And - do all your people eat this way?

**NOOR**

No.

**(throwing him a bone)**

...I come from a fishing village - most make a living from their catches.

**[In the wind, Anh's bamboo pipe. Barely noticeable.]**

**SIVA**

Is that why you left? So you wouldn't have to fish? I imagine it's a bloody business, all those guts and gills - what did your family think when you told them you were leaving?

**NOOR**

**(uncomfortable)**

I - they -

**SIVA**

Trice Forgotten – SEAS 2 – Heavy Cargo

And how did you come to be so far out on the ocean alone? Even with your -  
your - impressive physique, the stamina to row that far must be -

**NOOR**

I don't really like to talk about -

**SIVA**

And those bracelets you're wearing, such beauty! What is their meaning? They  
must be precious objects indeed for you to bring them with you - who gave  
them - ?

**NOOR**

Lemongrass!

**SIVA**

I'm sorry?

**NOOR**

Over there, a particularly fine growth of lemongrass. I'll just go and -

**SIVA**

I can come with you - !

**NOOR**

No!

**(beat)**

No need. I - I can do it myself.

**SIVA**

Trice Forgotten – SEAS 2 – Heavy Cargo

**(beginning to realise his mistake)**

Oh - I really didn't mean to, to pry - I was just curious about your jewellery -

**NOOR**

**(abrupt)**

They're just things. No deeper meaning than that.

**SIVA**

Are you sure? Because I really didn't meant to...

**[NOOR crunches hurriedly off across the sand.]**

**SIVA (CONT'D)**

...upset you.

**(sigh)**

Well done, Siva, you old charmer, you. "Welcome to the Netaoansom! Here's a local blithering idiot to make you feel at home."

**(An arch, almost indolent voice (ANH) comes floating out of seemingly nowhere.)**

**ANH**

I don't know. I think you're rather sweet.

**(SIVA gasps)**

Still going to knock you out with this oar, though.

**SIVA**

Excuse me?

Trice Forgotten – SEAS 2 – Heavy Cargo

**[CLONK!]**

**(An URK! from SIVA.)**

**ANH**

**(calling)**

Bo'sun! Get him aboard.

**[The Deck of the Neta. Sounds as before: water against the hull, heat hum -  
the gulls sound more frantic]**

**(BAKER trying to get sense out of a distraught NOOR.)**

**BAKER**

And you're sure you didn't see who took him?

**NOOR**

**(frantic, close to tears)**

By the time I got back to the shore, they were too far away!

**BAKER**

Did you see a flag?

**NOOR**

**(flustered)**

I don't know, I -

**BAKER**

Anything you can remember -

**NOOR**

Trice Forgotten – SEAS 2 – Heavy Cargo

I only got a glimpse -

**BAKER**

Anything at all - How many guns? What did the prow look like? Describe the-

**NOOR**

**(distraught)**

I didn't see because... I hid!

**BAKER**

**(extremely gentle)**

...There now, child. You did right to hide.

**NOOR**

I let them take him!

**BAKER**

What were you going to do? Fight them with your bare hands? You may have muscles but something tells me you didn't get them in combat.

**NOOR**

No, but -

**BAKER**

It's a terrible thing, guilt. Terrible, and unhelpful.

**[In the distance, ALESTES climbs the ladder]**

**NOOR**

Can you get him back?

Trice Forgotten – SEAS 2 – Heavy Cargo

**BAKER**

That's not really up to me. That's a decision for -

**[ALESTES storms onto deck, swinging open the hatch with a dramatic BANG.]**

**ALESTES**

WHAT in the name of DAVID JONES' BARNACLE CRUSTED LOCKER is going on UP HERE? Can a body not get some SLEEP without being woken by WAILING fit to rouse the DEAD -

**(ALESTES has spotted NOOR.)**

**ALESTES (CONT'D)**

Either you're new here or Siva has undergone a very dramatic transformation.

**NOOR**

Yes, I -

**(BAKER steps in smoothly.)**

**BAKER**

This is Noor, Captain, and they are extremely grateful for your permission to set foot aboard your ship.

**ALESTES**

That's funny, I don't remember giving it to them.

**BAKER**

In light of the cargo they bring with them, I thought you would forgive me for speaking on your behalf.

**ALESTES**

Trice Forgotten – SEAS 2 – Heavy Cargo

Oh you did, did you? Remind me to -

**(abruptly changing tack)**

What cargo?

**BAKER**

Supplies, and fresh ones at that. We won't be eating hardtack for a good long while.

**(ALESTES considers).**

**ALESTES**

I see.

**(beat)**

Perhaps your insubordination can be overlooked just this once. If that's all, I'm going back to bed.

**NOOR**

Wait!

**(BAKER sucks in his breath. This is not how to talk to ALESTES.)**

**ALESTES**

What did you say?

**NOOR**

Wait... Captain?

**BAKER**

Someone's taken Siva.

Trice Forgotten – SEAS 2 – Heavy Cargo

He and Noor went looking for food - someone jumped him as they were leaving.

**ALESTES**

**(to NOOR)**

And why didn't they take you as well, new blood? Couldn't find a sack big enough?

**(BAKER continues before NOOR has to answer this.)**

**BAKER**

Noor saw Siva being rowed to another ship. Big - bigger than ours.

**ALESTES**

Not hard, is it?

**(shrug)**

Look, clearly his British friends have taken the opportunity to haul him back to whatever kind of rough justice is waiting for him. I saved him once, I'm not doing it again. Afternoon all.

**BAKER**

Alestes.

**ALESTES**

I'm not running a rescue service for nervous urchins!

**NOOR**

**(unsure)**

I do not believe it was a British ship.

Trice Forgotten – SEAS 2 – Heavy Cargo

**ALESTES**

And how do you know?

**[Anh's flute play distantly leading to transitional music]**

**NOOR**

I heard a flute playing. Not a, a fife, a -

**ALESTES**

A bamboo flute.

**NOOR**

Yes - how did you - ?

**ALESTES**

**(of course it's her)**

Anh.

**[Transitional music]**

**[The big of ANH's ship. Miserable, dripping. A constant scum of water across the floor so all footsteps slap murkily in the cramped space. Ominous creaking of timber and a skittering and squeak of rats. SIVA is tied to a barrel, sitting on the damp floor. ANH throws a bucket of water at his face.]**

**SIVA**

**(GASP and SPLUTTER)**

**ANH**

That's CAPTAIN Anh to you, scum!

Trice Forgotten – SEAS 2 – Heavy Cargo

**SIVA**

**(still coughing)**

Of course, where - where are my manners?

**ANH**

Timid little thing, aren't you? Lying there soaked to the skin, not a drop of fight in you - you know what you remind me of? A minnow. The kind of fish that's too small to even bother throwing back.

**SIVA**

Now, I - I'm sure this can all be resolved civilly if we just remember our Ps&Qs -

**[ANH throws another bucket of cold water at SIVA's head.]**

**SIVA (CONT'D)**

**(GASP OF SHOCK AND COLD)**

Or no, we can do things your way, I see the wisdom now.

**ANH**

Tell me everything you know, minnow.

**SIVA**

Kn - know?

**ANH**

About the Florists!

**SIVA**

EVERYTHING? That - could take a while.

Trice Forgotten – SEAS 2 – Heavy Cargo

**ANH**

I've got all the time in the world.

**SIVA**

Well, I - I could start with the basic definition, I suppose, being the, the profession of those who sell and arrange flowers -

**[SHING - ANH has her cutlass to his neck.]**

**SIVA (CONT'D)**

**(strangled)**

urk

**ANH**

Think very carefully about what you say next.

**SIVA**

Please - I - I don't know what you want. Or who you are.

**(Beat)**

**ANH**

You really don't, do you?

**(put out)**

She hasn't mentioned me.

**SIVA**

Sh - she?

**(a gamble)**

Trice Forgotten – SEAS 2 – Heavy Cargo

Do you - mean... Alestes?

**(ANH snarls with rage)**

**[She hurls her cutlass past SIVA's ear at a roof beam, where it sticks and whomps gently to and fro.]**

**ANH**

NEVER say that name to me again, or next time, the cutlass goes through you, not the beam.

**[She retrieves the cutlass]**

**SIVA**

You - have some kind of history with Al -

**(catching himself)**

with...her?

**ANH**

**(bitter laugh)**

"History." You really are a little Brit, aren't you? Incapable of speaking in anything but frilly euphemisms.

**SIVA**

You know, I do sympathise - not to speak ill of one's captain but she can be very difficult at times.

**ANH**

Don't you DARE speak of Alestes in that manner, you unworthy little -

**(ANH stops, takes a deep breath, a shaky laugh. Shakes it off.)**

Trice Forgotten – SEAS 2 – Heavy Cargo

**ANH (CONT'D)**

Well. I've got you now, minnow. And if she wants you back - she'll just have to come and see me, won't she?

**[THE GALLEY OF THE NETAOANSOM. An assortments of utensils and - now - various produce hang down from the ceiling, swaying as the ship sails.]**

**(ALESTES sitting at the table, noisily chowing down on a bowl of fruit while NOOR and BAKER tower over her.)**

**BAKER**

Captain!

**ALESTES**

**(mouth full)**

What?!

**BAKER**

You can't just sit there and eat mango!

**ALESTES**

**(mouth full)**

The hell I can't.

**BAKER**

**(stern)**

Alestes.

**(Beat. ALESTES swallows noisily.)**

Trice Forgotten – SEAS 2 – Heavy Cargo

**ALESTES**

**(sulky)**

Yes?

**BAKER**

It's ANH. She's not going to just go away.

**ALESTES**

You know it's a trap, right?

**BAKER**

Of course.

**ALESTES**

An insultingly obvious trap?

**BAKER**

Are you angrier about the trap, or that she didn't put more effort into it?

**ALESTES**

That's enough out of you, old man.

**NOOR**

**(sharp)**

You would speak to your elders SO disrespectfully?

**ALESTES**

Who are you anyway? Don't answer, I don't care.

**NOOR**

Trice Forgotten – SEAS 2 – Heavy Cargo

Siva is being held captive, they might be torturing him, doing Allah knows what

-

**ALESTES**

**(soothing)**

No, I shouldn't think so.

**NOOR**

**(hope)**

No?

**ALESTES**

No. He's probably already dead.

**BAKER**

You know damn well the only reason Anh took him is to get your attention.

That makes this your problem.

**ALESTES**

So I should go and impale myself on her blade because it's, what, the decent thing to do?

**NOOR**

You should go because I'll pay you.

**(Heavy silence.)**

**ALESTES**

Interesting. How much?

Trice Forgotten – SEAS 2 – Heavy Cargo

**NOOR**

I - don't have much in the way of actual coin -

**ALESTES**

Pass.

**NOOR**

But I'm strong. I can lift more than your friend here, and thrice as much as you, I'd wager. I brought you more food today than it seems you've seen in a month. You can have my labour.

**ALESTES**

Don't need labour. Need coin.

**NOOR**

And how do you intend to get coin on a ship you can't sail, starving half to death?

**(Nasty silence. NOOR's got ALESTES, though she doesn't want to admit it.)**

**ALESTES**

...a year.

**NOOR**

Three months. That's more than enough.

**ALESTES**

Ten.

**NOOR**

Trice Forgotten – SEAS 2 – Heavy Cargo

Six.

**(ALESTES considers.)**

**ALESTES**

Six months... and those pretty bracelets you're wearing.

**NOOR**

My - ? No.

**ALESTES**

Poor Siva. I hear Anh keeps her knives sharp by skinning live rats she finds in the hold.

**NOOR**

I cannot believe you would have me barter for the life of a living soul.

**ALESTES**

I'm not the one that sat back and watched the poor soul get dragged off.

**(Pause. ALESTES continues to eat. NOOR gives in.)**

**NOOR**

**(beaten)**

Very well.

**[NOOR takes off their bracelets and puts them on the table with a jangle.]**

**NOOR (CONT'D)**

You had better get him back, "Captain". It is not wise to call down a debt like this unless you intend to pay it.

Trice Forgotten – SEAS 2 – Heavy Cargo

**[Transitional music]**

**(The brig as before. SIVA is now chattering away, apparently quite cheerfully. ANH tries to cover his voice with her flute, unsuccessfully.)**

**SIVA**

I just could not believe they didn't want to see my stamp collection...and then anyway...so then after they told me they had found my Nani in the wreckage...  
Oon Nani aasirvatham oonaku eppotum erikkum. [Blessings will always burn for Nani]

**(he gets tearful)**

I'm sorry, I just - you understand -

**(The flute makes a discordant note as she steams)**

**ANH**

**(bewildered, outraged)**

Do I?

**SIVA**

- after that the British tried to SHOOT me, saying I was secretly a "Fly Fisher" which I really don't understand because I absolutely cannot fish and I'm usually very good at getting along with people -

**ANH**

**(scream of annoyance)**

Good God can you please --

Trice Forgotten – SEAS 2 – Heavy Cargo

**[Mercifully, from the ceiling above come three loud, booming blows -  
ALESTES hammering her fist on the brig trap door.]**

**ALESTES**

**(from above, muffled)**

Anh, you daughter of misery! Give me back my bilge-rat!

**ANH**

**(to SIVA)**

Oh, thank god. Mummy's here.

**ALESTES**

Let me in this minute or I'll shoot this hatch to pieces!

**ANH**

**(calling)**

It opens upwards Alestes, you can let yourself in.

**(Beat)**

**ALESTES**

Ah. Yes.

**[The heavy trap door groaning open and ALESTES jumps down into the brig  
and lands with a splash.]**

**ALESTES (CONT'D)**

Now: unhand him.

**ANH**

Trice Forgotten – SEAS 2 – Heavy Cargo

No time for pleasantries? After you went to all that trouble to find me?

**ALESTES**

You were moored a mile away in open water. You weren't exactly trying to hide.

**ANH**

You can take the boy - in fact, I'd be grateful if he never darkened my brig again.

**ALESTES**

But?

**ANH**

There's a price.

**ALESTES**

Spit it out then.

**(afterthought)**

This isn't menacing, by the way. You're not... successfully menacing me. I barely had to maim anyone to get down here.

**ANH**

Are you done?

**ANH (CONT'D)**

Mhm

**ANH (CONT'D)**

Trice Forgotten – SEAS 2 – Heavy Cargo

I want something from you.

**ALESTES**

Well, you're only human.

**ANH**

A favour.

**ALESTES**

A fav - a favour?

**(She bursts out into feral laughter.)**

**ALESTES (CONT'D)**

Ah, I needed that.

**(tone shift)**

No. I won't do you a favour. A favour is what you do for a friend. A favour would imply I liked you. I'll pay you a ransom for the hostage you took.

**ANH**

**(masking hurt)**

Semantics.

**ALESTES**

What do you need me to do?

**ANH**

You don't want me to spoil the surprise do you?

**ALESTES**

Trice Forgotten – SEAS 2 – Heavy Cargo

Anh, I'm not playing this game.

**ANH**

**(dropping the coyness)**

Entirely without game-playing, he hasn't decided yet.

**ALESTES**

**(suddenly fearful)**

"He"?

**(laughs)**

I should have known. None of this was your idea, was it? It's got his muddy paw prints all over it.

What if I say no?

**ANH**

Then I blow that little dinghy you call a ship out of the water. Can you afford to start again, I wonder?

**(A tense silence stretches. But then -)**

**SIVA**

**(sneeze)**

Achoo! So sorry, how rude of me. I didn't meant to interrupt such a riveting conversation. I think it's all this water I'm sitting in, I think in fact I'm coming down with something? Possibly a gripe or -

**ALESTES**

Deal.

Trice Forgotten – SEAS 2 – Heavy Cargo

**ANH**

**(raising an eyebrow)**

You know, you do surprise me sometimes, Alestes, even now.

**ALESTES**

Wish I could say the same of you. Hand him over.

**ANH**

He's all yours.

**[ALESTES hacks at SIVA's bindings.]**

**ALESTES**

**(gruff)**

Come on, up the ladder. Let's go.

**ANH**

Remember, Alestes. Any time we like.

**[Transitional Music]**

**[NOOR sitting alone in the galley. BAKER enters.]**

**NOOR**

How is he?

**BAKER**

Sleeping. He's had quite a day. And how are you?

**(NOOR gives a shaky breath, unable to express what they feel.)**

**BAKER (CONT'D)**

Trice Forgotten – SEAS 2 – Heavy Cargo

You've had quite a day yourself.

...I saw the look on your face. Those bracelets were precious to you.

**NOOR**

...they were a gift, given when I... went away. They wanted me to remember them.

**BAKER**

That's a heavy thing to wear around your wrists.

**NOOR**

Mm.

**BAKER**

Heavier still to give it up for a boy you hardly know.

**NOOR**

**(hadn't thought of it that way)**

I suppose.

**BAKER**

...Strange what guilt can drive us to.

**NOOR**

The words of a man with a story of his own.

**BAKER**

Perhaps another day. It's not entirely my story to tell.

**NOOR**

Trice Forgotten – SEAS 2 – Heavy Cargo

Alestes? You never leave her side.

**BAKER**

She needs someone.

**NOOR**

"Strange what guilt can drive us to."

**BAKER**

**(a half-laugh)**

Hm.

**NOOR**

You won't tell Siva, will you?

**BAKER**

That's a conversation for you and the lad, I reckon.

... Don't give up on getting your bracelets back, Noor. Alestes might drive a hard bargain, but - you're part of our crew now. She'll warm up to you - to both of you - before you realise it and before she does.

**[Show Theme – Outro]**

**SIVA**

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## Trice Forgotten – SEAS 2 – Heavy Cargo

The series is created by Nemo Martin and directed by Rafaella Marcus. Today's episode was written by Rafaella Marcus and edited by Maddy Searle, Katharine Seaton, Tessa Vroom, Catherine Rinella.

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