

TRICE FORGOTTEN - EPISODE 6 – LAY DAY

SFX this week by Maddy Searle; Catherine Rinella; Katharine Seaton; Soundsnap; Sonniss; f4ngy (CC BY 4.0 <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>), kyles, Anthousai, musicandsoundyay, NachtmahrTV, 6polnic (CC BY 3.0 <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/>), ScreenplayTheater (CC BY 4.0), pugaeme (CC BY 3.0), qubodup, fbtz, Bidone, klankbeeld, Kyster, Izmraul, 16G_Panska_Veinlich_Jakub, DylanTheFish, TrashCanStudios, shatterstars, JennaW_ksc, csaszi, shall555 (CC BY 3.0), Zenleser, rachelbuchanan, lolamadeus, phistomefel (CC BY 3.0), Ramston (CC BY-NC 4.0), profispiesser, bruno.auzet, borralbi and previously credited artists via freesound.org.

Content Warnings

- Drowning
- Children in peril
- Illness
- Physical Violence & Injury
- Knives
- Bullying & Taunting
- Arguments
- Imperialism & internalised racism
- Manipulation
- SFX: High pitched tones (tinnitus), heartbeat, drinking, loud water sounds, distorted sounds

[Show Theme - Intro]

1. INT. THE SICK BAY OF THE NETAOANSOM. AFTERNOON.

[ALESTES Memory]

ZHU-ANRAN

JUMP, NDILISWA, GO-

NDILISWA

A-pa!

ZHU-ANRAN

NDILISWA!

ZHU-ANRAN (Singing)

...little carp, flying through the river there...watch how she swims...

NDILISWA

A-pa!

GAMMON

Alestes, you little tick, get up that rigging now!

ANH

Scared of heights, land-slug?

ALESTES

I was born in the water, dullard. I'm not a slug, I'm a carp!

ANH

What?

ALESTES

You heard me! I said, I'm a -

ALESTES (Reality)

'm a carp - can swim good as - YOU'RE a slug - oh. I don't feel -

BAKER

Get her in the bed!

NOOR

Gently, gently! We will not wake her by hitting her head.

INEZ

More's the pity.

NOOR

Not helpful, Inez.

SIVA

What can I do? What's wrong with her? Is it the sickly tummy from the bad fish
again?

BAKER

Inez, get blankets - she's got a fever-

NOOR

She will be well, Baker, we will see to it.

SIVA

Shall I mop her brow? Make a broth? Bring cold water? I could read to her from Homer! I find the original Greek most soothing - ἄνδρα μοι ἕννεπε, μοῦσα, πολύτροπον, —σὸν μῆλα πολλῆ- [*Tell me muse of the man of many ways, who was driven-*]

BAKER

Yes, yes, do - all of that, Siva.

[SIVA runs off]

BAKER (CONT'D)

Except the Homer!

NOOR

It is a fever. Quite simple to nurse, and Alestes is strong.

BAKER

Is she? I tell her not to over-exert herself - she gets these tired spells and then -

NOOR

Hmm.

BAKER

What?

NOOR

I do not like how her heart is beating. Feel.

ALESTES

Get OFF me you snake-bellied... I can take all of you any day...

NOOR

I suppose we should be grateful that she is still Alestes, even dreaming...

2. EXT. THE DECK OF THE GALLOPING ENGLISHMAN. DAY.

[ALESTES' memory]

GAMMON

My girls return!

(CREW cheer)

And they've only gone and got the BLOODY SWAG!

ALESTES

Well, Gammon, credit where credit's due - you couldn't have done it without me.

[ANH coughs]

ALESTES

Us. Yep, me and Annie here -

ANH

Anh.

ALESTES

- have come up with the goods -

ANH

- once again.

GAMMON

Alright, enough showboating. What do you want, a medal?

ANH

Just our fair share of the prize, —c lon [*pig brain*].

GAMMON

Of course. A third for Alestes... and a quarter for Anh.

ANH

What?

GAMMON

Maybe that'll teach you keep a civil tongue in your head.

ANH

But Alestes - !

ALESTES

Alestes what?

ANH

The way you talk to him is a thousand times worse than the way I do -

ALESTES

I've earned the right to talk to him like that.

ANH

Earned the right to be a cheeky-

GAMMON

Hold your tongue or get your pay docked, Anh.

ALESTES

You want to know how I earned the right?

ANH

How?

ALESTES

By being better than you!

[CREW noises of excitement]

ANH

I'll fight you any day, any way, with whatever weapon you can get your sea-rat
paws on.

ALESTES

Why wait? Right now is good for me!

[ALESTES draws her sword]

ANH

I thought you'd never ask!

[ANH draws her sword]

ALESTES

I hope you've got a will because -

GAMMON

ENOUGH! Shut up, all of you. Pissing about with brawls when there's money to be made - put your swords away, girls Anh! Now! Alestes. Come on.

[Swords sheathed]

GAMMON

That's better. Alright, get the wax out of your fetid ears and listen up - duty roster.

BAKER

Alestes? Alestes!

ALESTES

What? Not now, I have to listen to...

BAKER

Alestes!

3. INT. THE SICK BAY OF THE NETAOANSOM. LATER.

ALESTES

Anh... Gammon...

BAKER

It's alright. They can't hurt you now.

SIVA

Those names...

BAKER

It's nothing.

SIVA

Anh is... the pirate who kidnapped me.

NOOR

The one with the bamboo flute.

BAKER

Does it matter? That's the past.

NOOR

I do not think Siva being abducted and held at knife-point two weeks ago can be said to be 'the past'!

SIVA

Yes, it was very traumatic for me, I still have trouble sleeping -

NOOR

It is clear that your past is rapidly becoming our present.

BAKER

Noor, we need more broth.

NOOR

Send for Inez, then.

BAKER

Noor!

NOOR

I am sorry, Baker - but if people are coming after us and you know who they
are -

SIVA

We do have a right to know.

BAKER

Yes. You do. But Alestes...

NOOR

You said, before, that your story was not only your story to tell. You were right.

This is now our story too.

BAKER

...They were called the Florists. The crew that Alestes and I sailed with before
the Netaoansom.

SIVA

The Florists! Ohh, I thought Anh was asking me about horticulturalists! No
wonder she was cross.

BAKER

I was just a ship's cook, a skivvy - but Alestes... she was his star pupil.

NOOR

His?

BAKER

Gammon. Commander of the Florists and Captain of The Galloping Englishman.

SIVA

(sniggers) Gammon.

BAKER

It was a nickname, and not a kind one. But it's good for those that have power to laugh at themselves now and then. Makes it easier to believe they're your friend.

NOOR

What happened?

BAKER

We sailed, and we fought, we plundered, we set sail again.

I saw Alestes becoming... something else. Something she hadn't always been. I wanted us to leave. She'd put away a tidy sum, enough for us to return - to go anywhere we wanted. She wouldn't hear of it. I think she was... enjoying herself too much.

SIVA

But - you're here now, so...

NOOR

...what broke this Galloping Englishman's spell?

4. EXT. AN ISLET. MOONLIT NIGHT.

ALESTES

My GOD, old man, where are you taking me?

GAMMON

Now, now, Alestes, good things come to those who wait.

ALESTES

Come quicker to those who nick them.

GAMMON

[laughing] Ah, you're a chip off the old... nevermind.

ALESTES

No, go on.

GAMMON

What?

ALESTES

You can say it.

GAMMON

What?

ALESTES

You think I'm good.

GAMMON

Ha!

ALESTES

You think I'm a natural!

GAMMON

My foot.

ALESTES

The most fearsome buccaneer on the seven seas since Anne and Mary
strapped on breaches!

GAMMON

Is that so?

[He sticks a foot out and trips ALESTES]

ALESTES

You tripped me!

GAMMON

You want to be the most fearsome buccaneer on the seven seas, you got to be
quicker on your pins than that.

ALESTES

Limey bastard.

GAMMON

Oi. English bastard. Right, we're here.

ALESTES

"Here" looks suspiciously like "everywhere else" on this godforsaken spit of
land.

GAMMON

"Here" is where we start looking.

ALESTES

For what? Treasure?

GAMMON

You really are a grubby little thief, aren't you? Yes, treasure.

ALESTES

Go on then, where's the map?

GAMMON

No map. Not for this one.

ALESTES

Then what?

GAMMON

Hush your yap, girl, and I'll tell you. There's a story to this hoard.

ALESTES

Course there is.

GAMMON

There are many ways to lay markers back to treasure, they say. Maps, notches in trees, instructions whispered in a sleeping mermaid's ear -

ALESTES

Please don't go near any sleeping women, Gammon.

GAMMON

Do you want to hear this or not?

ALESTES

...fine.

GAMMON

But there's only one way to ensure that only the bravest and truest find what you've laid in the dirt. Now I've taught you to dig, yes? How to pick a spot to hide... sensitive items from the law? How to slip a boat onto a cay by moonlight and be off again without so much as a whisper to tell you were ever there?

ALESTES

...yes.

GAMMON

Exactly. You were trained, girl, just like generations of honest privateers before you. And if there's one thing privateers like, it's a pet. Jammy, with his monkey. Pike's got that old cat -

ALESTES

Kai with that bird that shits everywhere.

GAMMON

Kai with that bird that - exactly. But before monkeys and cats and incontinent birds, there was one animal that was favoured of buccaneers everywhere: the sea turtle.

ALESTES

The sea turtle?

GAMMON

It's true, true as I'm standing afore you now. And the more these pirates looked after these turtles, the more a special bond grew up. Every Captain who buried his treasure released two sea turtles at the same time, each fed with a tiny, tiny nugget of the gold he was hiding. And if you can find those two turtles that belong to a particular treasure, and you ask 'em with the right words and the right manner - why they'll lead you right back to it, easy as gooseberry pie.

ALESTES

BOLLOCKS.

GAMMON

True!

ALESTES

Oh, you almost had me there for a minute, you whey-faced, cloth-eared - TREASURE-SEEKING TURTLES? Of all the things I've ever heard, that has to be the stupidest damn - Are those - no.

GAMMON

Don't be so sure of yourself, Miss Alestes. There are more things in heaven and earth.

5. INT. THE SICK BAY OF THE NETAOANSOM. LATER.

ALESTES

...turtles...s'not...stories, Gammon...

NOOR

Her heart beat's rising again. So is her temperature.

BAKER

No, no, no - Siva, we need more water - more cloths - get Inez to help -

[INEZ enters]

NOOR

Good, Inez - take Siva, get as many rags as you can find -

INEZ

We're being followed.

BAKER

What?

INEZ

Off the starboard bough, just a row boat. But it's been tailing us for the last hour.

BAKER

Ay! Not now!

INEZ

What we do, Big Man?

BAKER

...we make Alestes well. She's our captain. Inez - get up there and keep an eye on the boat - it gets any closer, you let us know. Siva -

SIVA

Rags and water, I know.

ALESTES

I can't keep... I have to stop....

6. EXT. AN ISLET. MOONLIT NIGHT.

GAMMON

Come on girl, put some welly into it.

ALESTES

I'm digging faster than you, old man.

GAMMON

You're half my age, you should be hitting seabed by now.

ALESTES

Fine!

GAMMON

Here.

ALESTES

Bleurgh.

GAMMON

That's best English ale there, lass.

ALESTES

No kidding.

GAMMON

What do you want, Alestes?

ALESTES

Some beer that doesn't taste like piss would be nice.

GAMMON

No, no, no. From all this?

ALESTES

The beach?

GAMMON

Life, girl! I'm asking you what you want out of life.

ALESTES

Why?

GAMMON

I'm curious. Most of my crew, they're a simple lot, and I don't mind that. Full bellies, weekly rum rations and a pretty girl or two when we make port. Or in Anh's case, weekly rum rations, someone to kill, and a pretty girl or two when we make port. But you... you don't give much away, do you?

ALESTES

Don't I?

GAMMON

Very good. You are a card.

ALESTES

What about you then, what do you "want"?

GAMMON

Me? Oh, I'm a simple chap, really. An easy life.

ALESTES

A bit more than weekly rum though?

GAMMON

True, true. I've got some plans. A few more hauls like the one you brought in today and who knows?

(beat)

There. I've shared. Now you.

ALESTES

I want... the same, I suppose. A quiet life, a nice island to retire to, and a pile of gold to keep me warm at night.

GAMMON

That's all?

ALESTES

That's all.

GAMMON

Who am I to judge? In that case, I think we can come to an accord.

ALESTES

What d'you mean?

GAMMON

A nice island and a pile of gold? I could fix you up tomorrow.

ALESTES

But my contract -

GAMMON

Early release for good behaviour.

ALESTES

This is a trick. You're not seriously offering to let me out -

GAMMON

I don't make promises I don't intend to keep.

ALESTES

Yes you do.

GAMMON

Alright, yes I do. But I don't renege on deals that are in my interest.

ALESTES

Deals?

GAMMON

Like I said, a private island and a mountain of gold. Could be yours tomorrow.

ALESTES

...what would I have to do?

7. INT. THE SICK BAY OF THE NETAOANSOM. LATER.

NOOR

Get another cloth, Inez!

INEZ

I'm doing it!

SIVA

What happened?

NOOR

I don't know, her temperature just shot up out of nowhere - feel her heart -

SIVA

Oh dear oh dear oh dear oh dear -

BAKER

Siva, stop panicking, just keep that bucket topped up, we have to keep her cool!

SIVA

Oh, oh, oh -

NOOR

Baker, she's peaking -

ALESTES

No no no no, won't...can't...you can't make me...

SIVA

She's distressed!

INEZ

We're all distressed, Siva!

BAKER

Oi! Enough of that, go outside if you want to fight!

SIVA

Do we have any bananas on board?

INEZ

What?

SIVA

A banana skin laid across the forehead can help bring down a temperature! My

Nani used to -

BAKER

Siva!

SIVA

Right! Yes! I'll go and see if we've got one -

[a BUMP from somewhere against the hull of the boat]

NOOR

What was that?

BAKER

Sounded like... someone boarding.

SIVA

I - I'll go and see...

INEZ

No. I'll go. Could do with banging some heads together.

BAKER

Be careful! Come on, Alestes... where are you...

8. EXT. THE DECK OF THE GALLOPING ENGLISHMAN. DAWN.

GAMMON

That's right, while you lazy sacks of ordure snored in your bunks, the lady Alestes and I were bringing home THIS.

[He kicks over a chest and gold coins pour onto the deck]

GAMMON

Feast your eyes, boys - there will be buns for tea. Oi! "Fingers" - you keep yours to yourself or I'll get my sword out and everyone will wonder if that nickname of yours is ironic. Bo'sun! Get this lot down to the treasury and a heavy lock on the door - after Miss Alestes has taken her fair share, of course.

Don't you have jobs, you horrible reprobates? Get going!

ANH

Another successful mission, was it?

ALESTES

Mm.

ANH

You know, we could all be rich if he deigned to take the rest of us out on as many...solo trips as he does you. I wonder why that is?

ALESTES

Piss off Anh, I need to sleep.

ANH

What's wrong with you? You usually can't wait to crow about Daddy's latest favour.

ALESTES

Nothing - just leave it, yeah, Anh? I need to see - Baker!

ANH

Coward!

ALESTES

Baker. We have to leave.

BAKER

What?

ALESTES

Tonight. When we moor off Sibolga. We have to grab what we can and go, I've got my gold stashed in an apple barrel so just be ready -

BAKER

Did something happen?

ALESTES

We can use the gold to buy a ship, make a bit of coin on the trade routes -

BAKER

Did you do something?

ALESTES

No - ! It wasn't me, it was -

Gammon offered me a deal. He said he'd buy out my contract if...

BAKER

If? Alestes...

ALESTES

He wants me to kill someone.

BAKER

Who? ...Me?

ALESTES

No. But. I can't. Maybe if I could, it would be better -

BAKER

No, child. You cannot buy freedom with something you'd regret for the rest of
your life.

ALESTES

I'm sorry, Baker.

BAKER

What for?

ALESTES

As soon as we run, they'll come after us. It won't be easy, just you and me
crewing a ship.

BAKER

Hey... You sound more like yourself than you have for a long time. That's
enough for me. Captain.

ALESTES

Captain. I do like the sound of that.

(beat)

...can you hear that?

BAKER

Hear what?

ALESTES

You - you must be able to hear...

[BAKER'S voice is far away]

BAKER

Alestes? Alestes, where are you?

ALESTES

Baker! I can't see you! Baker, where are - the bananas - they're - everywhere -

9. INT. THE SICK BAY OF THE NETAOANSOM. LATER.

ALESTES

BAKER!

BAKER

It's alright, I'm here, I'm here.

INEZ

Aw. Sweet.

ALESTES

Where - this isn't my room... Why is there banana on my face?

NOOR

You are in the sick bay, Captain. You had a fever.

SIVA

Do you feel better now? Noor nursed you all through it, they were amazing, it was truly to a privilege to watch -

NOOR

Myself and Baker have been keeping watch over you.

ALESTES

Oh... good... why are you all staring? Don't you have jobs to do?

INEZ

I think we can safely say she's feeling better.

ALESTES

You can get out now. I'll just... have a wash and a little nap and...

BAKER

That won't be possible.

ALESTES

Why? The ocean didn't evaporate while I was out, did it? Bring me some water
and -

BAKER

You have a visitor.

ALESTES

In the middle of the sea?

(beat)

Am I still asleep?

BAKER

No. They rowed here. Boarded an hour ago. You're... going to want to get
dressed.

ALESTES

Fine. Bring me my boots. And my biggest hat.

10. INT. ALESTES'S CABIN. NIGHT.

ALESTES

Get out of my chair.

GAMMON

Manners, Miss Alestes. "A merry host makes merry guests." Did I teach you nothing?

ALESTES

Guests are usually invited, Gammon. Get out.

GAMMON

I just want to have a little chat. A social call, really. You look like shit, by the by.

ALESTES

At least that's unusual for me.

GAMMON

Can't say I care for the service here but it's always hard to find a decent cup of char outside of Blighty, isn't it?

ALESTES

Whatever you have to say, I don't care.

GAMMON

Oh, I think you might.

ALESTES

Why, have you suddenly become interesting in the last two years?

GAMMON

So young, and so untender!

ALESTES

[half drawing sword]

I swear to -

GAMMON

I've buried my treasure.

ALESTES

You've - what?

GAMMON

Business has been good since you left. In a way, you solved my problem, leaving like you did. Anh's really stepped up since I gave her her own ship.

ALESTES

So? I've got my own ship too - whatever, Gammon.

GAMMON

The money's been pouring in, a bit too noticeably for my comfort - so I'm leaving some of it in an... on-shore account.

ALESTES

And why should I believe you?

GAMMON

You don't have to.

ALESTES

It's a trick.

GAMMON

Could be.

ALESTES

But why would you tell me? Why invite me to go looking for your stash?

GAMMON

Because I like you, Alestes. I always did. It's a shame we couldn't be friends but... we don't have to be enemies. My little birdies tell me you're trying to get into the merchant business. Pottery, and the like? A clean break from all this nasty piracy. The treasure I've buried, it's more than enough for you to afford what only money can buy: a quiet life. No more sailing, no more violence.

ALESTES

As if I need handouts from the likes of you.

GAMMON

Trade must be very good around these parts.

ALESTES

Booming. ...Right. Well. Information received. You can go now.

GAMMON

One last thing.

ALESTES

Isn't there always?

GAMMON

My treasure. There's no map. No notches on trees. No words whispered in a mermaid's ear.

ALESTES

Don't tell me...

GAMMON

You'll need these.

ALESTES

Bloody sea turtles. ...Give them, then.

GAMMON

Ah ah ah - not so fast. You know me, Alestes, I love a deal.

ALESTES

Yeah yeah, the "favour" you had Anh extort from me by kidnapping my crew-mate. I've already said yes.

GAMMON

Exactly! You've already said yes! You've got to sweeten the pot a little more than that, my dear! Give me something new, something... original.

ALESTES

What... would you want for the turtles?

GAMMON

That's not the question, is it? The question is - what are you prepared to give?

[Show Theme - Outro]

SIVA

Trice Forgotten is a podcast distributed by Rusty Quill, and licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution Non-Commercial Sharealike 4.0 International License.

The series is created by Nemo Martin and directed by Rafaella Marcus.

Today's episode was written by Rafaella Marcus and Nemo Martin and edited by Nico Vettese, Maddy Searle, Tessa Vroom, Katharine Seaton and Catherine Rinella.

Trice Forgotten features:

Rebecca Brough

Vic Zander

Shahan Hamza

Gigi Zahir

Ashley Goh

Tim Meredith

Naomi Bartoo

Trice Forgotten is produced by Lowri Ann Davies, Ian Geers and production manager Natasha Johnston with executive producers Alexander J Newall and April Sumner

To subscribe, view associated materials or join our Patreon visit rustyquill.com.

Rate and review us online, tweet us @therustyquill, visit us on Facebook or email us at mail@rustyquill.com. Thanks for listening.