

Private Diary
of
Captain Jay Daily

Monday,
December 12, 1653

Today is cold and we are running out of food. All that is left is moldy cheese and bread. If we don't get to a port soon, there's going to be a mutiny. That would be just what my first mate Bobbin Bill would like to happen. He has had his eye on my position now going on three months. I should never have trusted him.

Tuesday,
December 13, 1653

It was the sweetest sound when Crusty Jim yelled "Land ho." We were able to land on a small island that had bananas, coconuts and wild pigs. It was funny to watch my shipmates running around trying to catch a wild pig. Finally, Cook caught one and we had a fine feast down by the water's edge. I think we'll stay a few more days.

Wednesday,
December 14, 1653

We saw a ship off the west coast of this island. It looks like Black Bart's flag flying the mast and he isn't known to give any mercy. We are planning to board the Revenge at dusk and get out on the open sea. There we will have a better chance of fighting Black Bart.

I've got a surprise for Bobbin Bill. He won't be boarding the Revenge tonight. He's going to be stranded on this island and left for Black Bart to deal with. He and Black Bart are fierce enemies. That will teach Bill to try and take over my ship and crew.

Dusk is just about upon us. I see a few of the men getting ready to jump Bobbin Bill. I need to get to the ship and get it into deeper waters so we can take on Black Bart.

Thursday,
December 15, 1653

We were able to get the Revenge out to sea before Black Bart saw us. Thank goodness we weren't flying our colors. A funny thing, Black Bart didn't come after us; instead he went to the island. I would have loved to have seen Bobbin Bill's face when he realized Black Bart was coming ashore.

I'm not going to relax yet. I have heard that Black Bart is a sneaky fellow and half expect to see him on the horizon heading towards us. At least we were able to rest and replenish our food supplies. The men seem antsy and ready for some action. I admit, I'm antsy too. I'm almost hoping Black Bart shows up.

Friday,
December 16, 1653

I should watch what I wish for. Black Bart is just off our stern and with his little sloop and my heavy galleon, he'll be upon us by midnight. Well, we'll be ready for him. His little sloop won't hold a candle to the forty guns the Revenge has. In addition, we have a new weapon that we haven't had a chance to try out. We will be ready and waiting at midnight.

Saturday,
December 17, 1653

Surprise Black Bart! He is running with his tail between his legs. We aren't chasing him because the Revenge is too heavy and can't keep up with Bart's sloop. But I have a notion that Black Bart will meet up with us again someday. He wasn't happy at all when his ship came along side the Revenge. Just before he dropped anchor, we showed our true colors by raising our pirate flag. The look on Bart's face was priceless. By then, it was too late because my crew was boarding his ship. Although we didn't come away with a bounty, it was just as sweet to know we whipped Black Bart and he went running like the dog he is.

There was another surprise. Bobbin Bill was aboard Bart's ship screaming at the top of his lungs for Bart's men to fight us. But we had the element of surprise and won this particular battle. I heard Black Bart tell his first mate to lock Bobbin Bill in the hold and to stuff something into his mouth to keep him quiet. Bobbin Bill won't have a restful sleep tonight but I will fall asleep with a smile on my face.

Sunday,
December 18, 1653

We decided to head in the opposite direction that Black Bart was sailing. Although we beat him up a little last night, we don't want to take any chances. We won't have that element of surprise again.

We are heading for Jamaica where some friends of the crew and mine hide out. And just to make things interesting, we viewed a ship in the distance ahead of us that looks a lot like a Spanish supply ship. We should be able to overtake her just around dawn. It's been a very good week!