

THE ADVENTURES OF TINTIN:  
THE SECRET OF THE UNICORN

By Steven Moffat and  
Edgar Wright & Joe Cornish

Based on the books by  
Herge

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FADE IN:

ICONIC TINTIN MOVIE CREDIT SEQUENCE

CREDITS play over a fast-paced mini-ACTION ADVENTURE, giving a flavour of who TINTIN is, and the exotic places he finds himself. A sense of the history of the character, placing him in context for both a long-time READER, and new MOVIEGOER.

As the CREDIT SEQUENCE ends, we push in towards a brilliant ORB, which separates into swirling colours and transforms into...

EXT. STREET MARKET - DAY

The SWIRLING COLOURS of an ARTIST'S PALATE.

A STREET ARTIST, bearing an uncanny resemblance to HERGÉ, is sketching a young man with his back to the camera. They are in the middle of a busy street market.

STREET ARTIST

Very nearly there, sir. I have to say, your face is familiar. Have I drawn you before?

TINTIN (O.C.)

Occasionally.

STREET ARTIST

Of course, I've seen you in the newspaper. You're a reporter?

ANGLE ON: A WHITE DOG is sitting, looking a little bored, at the subject's feet. The DOG whimpers.

TINTIN

I'm a journalist. Be patient, Snowy  
- not much longer.

Two patent leather shoes enter frame, distracting SNOWY. SNOWY leaves to follow the MAN, who deftly picks the pockets of market patrons as he goes.

ANGLE ON: SNOWY as he trots through the crowd, keeping his eyes on the PICKPOCKET.

The PICKPOCKET bumps into another market patron and snatches their wallet.

PICKPOCKET

I do beg your pardon.

ANGLE ON: SNOWY follows the PICKPOCKET as a hand continues to snatch wallets and handbags from their unsuspecting owners.

STREET ARTIST  
There. I believe I've captured something of your likeness.

The STREET ARTIST hands TINTIN the picture, showing the CARTOON TINTIN.

Our fully-dimensional TINTIN admires it.

TINTIN  
Not bad. What do you think, Snowy?

TINTIN looks around - SNOWY isn't there.

TINTIN (CONT'D)  
(exasperated)  
Snowy...

TINTIN hands money to the artist and leaves, in search of SNOWY.

TINTIN (CONT'D)  
There you are, sir. Now, where's he run off to?

As TINTIN strolls through the market, he passes two pairs of eyes (the THOM(P)SONS), peering through holes cut in a NEWSPAPER.

THOMPSON  
Anything?

THOMSON  
Nothing!

TINTIN crosses behind them.

TINTIN  
Snowy!

TINTIN has paused by a stall selling mirrors, which reflect multiple images of his famous quiff. A DOG BARK.

SNOWY runs over.

TINTIN (CONT'D)  
Where have you been, heh? Chasing cats again?

ANGLE ON: TINTIN, just as something has caught his eye in the reflection of a stall selling cheap antiques.

TINTIN (CONT'D)

Snowy - look at this!

CLOSE ON: A magnificent model sailing ship in a glass case. TINTIN and SNOWY walk towards it and bend down to take a closer look.

TINTIN leans in closer. Intricate detail fills the frame, as if the boat were real. We can almost hear the sea, the shouts of sailors, the cry of gulls.

TINTIN (CONT'D)

Triple masted, double decks, fifty guns. Isn't she a beauty?

CRABTREE (O.S.)

That's a very unique specimen, that is.

The seller, CRABTREE, is sitting at his stall.

CRABTREE (CONT'D)

From an old sea captain's estate.

TINTIN

The Unicorn...

CRABTREE

Unicorn. "Man-o-War" sailing ship. It's very old, that is. Sixteenth century!

TINTIN

Seventeenth, I would think.

CRABTREE

Reign of Charles the First!

TINTIN

Charles the Second.

CRABTREE

That's what I said, Charles the Second. As fine a ship as ever sailed the seven seas. You won't find another one of these, mate. And it's only two quid.

TINTIN

I'll give you a pound.

CRABTREE

(relieved)  
Done!

CRABTREE stands as TINTIN pays him.

ANGLE ON: BARNABY, a large man in a tight blue suit, is lumbering through the market, distracted and under pressure.

CRABTREE lifts the model ship from the case and hands it over.

CRABTREE (CONT'D)  
Gently does it.

BARNABY continues to shove his way through the crowd.

MARKET PATRON  
Excuse me!

CRABTREE releases the boat into TINTIN's hands.

CRABTREE  
There you go, careful!

SUDDENLY: An AMERICAN VOICE!

BARNABY (O.S.)  
Hey, bud...

BARNABY arrives at the stall, out of breath.

BARNABY (CONT'D)  
...how much for the boat?

CRABTREE  
I'm sorry, I just sold it to this young gent.

BARNABY  
Oh yeah? Tell me what you paid and I'll give you double.

CRABTREE  
(appalled)  
Double?

TINTIN  
Thanks, but it's not for sale.

BARNABY  
Look, kid, I'm trying to help you out - I don't think you realize this, but you're about to walk into a whole mess of danger.

TINTIN  
What kind of danger?

BARNABY's expression changes to a look of alarm.

BARNABY

I'm warning you - get rid of the boat and get out while you still can! These people do not play nice.

BARNABY moves back into the crowd.

TINTIN

What people?

VOICE (O.C.)

Wonderful!

TINTIN turns around to find a TALL, STOOPED-MAN standing behind him - this is SAKHARINE. He wears a long macintosh and tall bowler, with a coal black beard, fierce bright eyes and pince-nez.

SAKHARINE

It's just, wonderful! Don't bother wrapping it, I'll take it - 'as is'. Does anybody object if I pay by cheque?

CRABTREE

If you want to buy it, you'll have to talk to the kid!

SAKHARINE

I see. Well, let the *kid* name his price.

CRABTREE

(quiet despair)

Name *his price*?? Ten years I've been flogging bric-a-brac and I miss "name your price" by one bleedin' minute!

TINTIN

I'm sorry. I already explained to the other gentleman -

SAKHARINE frowns, looking around.

CRABTREE

American - he was. All hair oil and no socks!

TINTIN

It's not for sale.

SAKHARINE

Then let me appeal to your better nature. I have recently acquired Marlinspike Hall and this ship, as I'm sure you're aware, was once part of the estate.

TINTIN

Of the late sea captain?

SAKHARINE

The family fell upon hard times, lost everything. They'd been living in a cloud of bad luck ever since. We are talking generations of drinking and irrational behavior -

TINTIN

I'm sorry but as I told you before, it's not for sale.

SAKHARINE glares at TINTIN.

TINTIN (CONT'D)

Good day to you, sir.

TINTIN tucks the MODEL SHIP under his arm, nods politely, and leaves. SNOWY cocks his snout indignantly and follows.

SAKHARINE

That young man - what's his name?

CRABTREE

Him? Everybody knows him. That's Tintin.

CLOSE ON: SAKHARINE as the camera closes in on his inscrutable face.

INT. TINTIN'S APARTMENT - DAY

TINTIN and SNOWY enter.

TINTIN

What is it about this ship? Why has it attracted so much attention?

He sets the model down on his sideboard.

TINTIN studies the MODEL SHIP ...

TINTIN (CONT'D)

What secrets do you hold?

TINTIN hurries to the next room. He takes off his coat and sets it down on the couch. He enters a small office and hunts around his desk for his magnifying glass; an old typewriter sits there in pride of place, surrounded by artifacts from far-off places.

TINTIN (CONT'D)

Ah! Where is that magnifying glass?

As TINTIN looks around - we see glimpses of his LIFE: framed PICTURES and NEWSPAPER STORIES, featuring past adventures. TINTIN posing with familiar CHARACTERS from early travels.

TINTIN (CONT'D)

Could have sworn it was... No.  
Where could it possibly be? Snowy,  
you haven't seen...

He moves to the large bookcase.

TINTIN (CONT'D)

Where is it?

SNOWY surprises him, he is holding the magnifying glass in his jaws.

TINTIN (CONT'D)

Thank you.

TINTIN takes it.

CLOSE ON: MAGNIFYING GLASS. He turns around to find the cat standing in the doorway. SNOWY turns and GROWLS!

TINTIN (CONT'D)

No, Snowy!

ANGLE ON: A WHITE CAT has slipped in through the open window. SNOWY instantly BARKS and chases the CAT, which springs back up into the living room.

TINTIN rushes back into the living room, and finds SNOWY chasing the CAT.

The CAT swings wildly from a chandelier, climbs up the drapes and over a bookshelf; SNOWY goes above it. As he races across the sideboard after the CAT, he knocks over the UNICORN!

TINTIN chases the CAT towards the window and slides on the floor.

He hears the CRASH! TINTIN spins around the SOUND.



CLOSE ON: The MODEL SHIP lies on the floor... mast broken off near the base.

TINTIN gently picks up the BROKEN MODEL SHIP.

TINTIN (CONT'D)  
(annoyed)  
Look what you did. You broke it!  
Bad dog!

He turns the ship over, not noticing a SMALL METAL TUBE that drops onto the FLOOR.

CLOSE ON: TINTIN moves closer to the sideboard and unknowingly kicks the tube under the low cabinet. SNOWY tries to PAW at it, but it rolls away... the more SNOWY paws at it, the further he pushes it... until it rolls all the way under the cabinet.

CLOSE ON: TINTIN examines the damage ... the mast is hollow, and has snapped near the deck. TINTIN puts the MAST loosely back in place.

TINTIN (CONT'D)  
Something happened on this ship.  
And we're going to the one place  
that could have the answer ...

TINTIN grabs his coat and heads out of the apartment.

TINTIN (CONT'D)  
C'mon, Snowy.

TINTIN and SNOWY leave the apartment. Someone is watching through binoculars from outside the window. They focus on the SHIP.

INT. LIBRARY - EVENING

ANGLE ON: TINTIN sits in the gothic library, a tiny figure dwarfed by towering shelves.

CLOSE ON: TINTIN is reading a old thick maritime encyclopedia. He turns the page and whispers to SNOWY.

TINTIN  
(low whisper)  
Here it is! "*Sir Francis Haddock of  
Marlinspike Hall the last Captain  
of the ill-fated Unicorn ...*  
(MORE)

TINTIN (CONT'D)

*The ship set sail from Barbados in 1676 on one of the most ruinous voyages in maritime history... ship never reached destination...*

CLOSE ON: An old illustration of the UNICORN under full sail.

TINTIN (CONT'D)

*...attacked by pirates, all hands lost except for one survivor. When Sir Francis was rescued and returned home, he was convinced his name had been cursed. The Unicorn's manifest stated that it was carrying a cargo of rum and tobacco bound for Europe, but it was long claimed the ship was carrying a secret cargo...*

TINTIN glances at SNOWY, puzzled...

TINTIN (CONT'D)

What was the ship carrying, Snowy?

TINTIN turns another page and keeps reading ...

TINTIN (CONT'D)

*Historians have tried and failed to discover what happened on that fatal voyage - but Sir Francis's last words: 'Only a true Haddock will discover the secret of the Unicorn.'*

TINTIN turns the page to continue, then puts the book down and grabs another, flipping through the pages.

A familiar blue-suited figure sneaks between the aisles... TINTIN takes a look behind his shoulder - there is no one.

CLOSE ON: TINTIN is a little creeped out. A storm is brewing, and rain beats on the library windows. TINTIN thinks he's being watched. Lightning strikes outside.

INT. 26 LABRADOR STREET HALLWAY - EVENING

ANGLE ON: TINTIN enters the hallway.

TINTIN

I've missed something, Snowy. We need to take a closer look at that model.

He walks up the stairs.

INT. TINTIN'S FLAT - EVENING

TINTIN opens the door and enters. The model ship has vanished.

TINTIN  
Of course it's gone! How could I be  
so stupid?

EXT. MARLINSPIKE HALL COUNTRYSIDE - NIGHT

A faded sign indicating "MARLINSPIKE HALL" can still be read.

ANGLE ON: TINTIN and SNOWY hurry along in the shadows of a high brick wall that surrounds a country estate.

A full moon casts spooky shadows through skeletal trees, blowing in the wind. With every gust, a carpet of dead leaves lift into the air.

ANGLE ON: The rusting iron gates, covered with ivy.

TINTIN reaches the gate he tries to open them, to no avail.

Suddenly, SNOWY appears on the other side.

TINTIN  
How'd you do that?

SNOWY shows TINTIN a hole in the crumbled wall.

TINTIN (CONT'D)  
Clever boy.

TINTIN squeezes through the hole, with SNOWY close behind...

EXT. MARLINSPIKE HALL GROUNDS - NIGHT

ANGLE ON: TINTIN and SNOWY cross the heavily wooded estate to a dark mansion.

ANGLE ON: MARLINSPIKE HALL ... a once-grand chateau-style COUNTRY HOUSE, now looking very sad and neglected. Empty and dark.

TINTIN walks up to the steps.

ANGLE ON: TINTIN'S flashlight sweeps and settles on a COAT OF ARMS, carved into stone above the front door. A large fish dominates the design.

TINTIN  
 (whispers)  
 A coat of arms... why does that  
 look familiar?  
 (realizes)  
 Hang on a minute... that fish! It's  
 a Haddock! Of course - Marlinspike  
 Hall is the old Haddock estate...

SNOWY quickly heads off on in the wrong direction.

TINTIN (CONT'D)  
 Snowy!

A slavering GUARD DOG growls and charges at TINTIN from out of the shadows!

ANGLE ON: TINTIN races away from the DOG, leaping fallen trees and ducking low branches, with the hound snapping at his heels.

TINTIN approaches a stone wall as the DOG is almost upon him. Suddenly, SNOWY leaps from the bramble and barks angrily at the GUARD DOG. The larger dog cowers and whines, submitting to SNOWY'S ferocity.

TINTIN (CONT'D)  
 Well done, Snowy! Good boy.

TINTIN pets his head.

The GUARD DOG playfully runs about SNOWY on the front lawn, as TINTIN unlatches a broken window and climbs inside.

INT. MARLINSPIKE HALL - NIGHT

ANGLE ON: TINTIN slowly pushes open the window inside the mansion and carefully sweeps his FLASHLIGHT through a darkened room. Everything is coated in layers of dust and the furniture is covered in great white sheets. A shadowy figure stealthily walks alongside him.

TINTIN moves through a door into a side room, where he sees a distinctive SHAPE hidden beneath a sheet. In one swift movement, he sweeps the sheet aside.

ANGLE ON: The MODEL SHIP sitting in a display case, bathed in a shaft of ghostly moonlight.

CLOSE ON: TINTIN can't believe his luck ... he grabs the MODEL SHIP. He shines the flashlight on the boat before picking it up.

TINTIN  
(softly)  
Well, well, well... it seems we've  
caught our thief.

He starts to back away from the case holding onto the ship. He turns to see a tall, SILHOUETTED FIGURE standing in front of him ... the MAN raises a CANDLESTICK and whacks TINTIN on his HEAD!

THUNK!

TINTIN slumps to the FLOOR, head spinning. The room lights are turned on.

NESTOR takes the UNICORN from TINTIN as he is lying on the floor, making sure his head is still attached. SAKHARINE enters, completely cool and calm.

SAKHARINE  
Welcome to Marlinspike Hall. I see  
you let yourself in.

TINTIN gets up.

TINTIN  
I came to retrieve my property.

SAKHARINE  
I'm sorry - I'm not sure I follow  
you?

TINTIN sits up, rubbing the back on his head. NESTOR is holding the UNICORN MODEL.

TINTIN  
Oh, I think you do. This ship was  
stolen from my apartment less than  
an hour ago!

TINTIN tries to get the MODEL SHIP from NESTOR - as if he's thinking of making a dash for it.

SAKHARINE  
I'm afraid you're mistaken, Mr.  
Tintin.

NESTOR pulls the ship back from TINTIN.

TINTIN

There's no mistake. It belongs to me!

He pulls back again away from NESTOR.

SAKHARINE

Are you sure?

NESTOR begins to pull the ship away from TINTIN.

TINTIN

Of course I'm sure.

TINTIN takes the SHIP.

TINTIN (CONT'D)

I took it home. I put it on a cabinet in the living room and then Snowy chased the cat and knocked it over and it ...

(dawning realization)

... fell.

TINTIN'S eye is drawn to the mast. This mast is not broken and split like that on his own ship.

TINTIN (CONT'D)

(stunned)

This isn't my ship.

SAKHARINE

No, indeed.

NESTOR takes the SHIP back, and goes back to the case and puts it inside.

TINTIN

I - I'm sorry. It looks - identical.

SAKHARINE takes TINTIN by the arm and leads him out towards the door.

SAKHARINE

Well, looks can be deceiving.

TINTIN

Yes, indeed ...

TINTIN pulls away from SAKHARINE and walks back to the case and the ship.

TINTIN (CONT'D)

... but I don't understand! Why did Sir Francis make two ships exactly alike? And you have one already. Why do you want another? What is it about this model that would cause someone to steal it?

SAKHARINE

Goodness me, why so many questions?

TINTIN

It's my job. There could be a story here. It's what I do, you see.

SAKHARINE

Well, it's no great mystery. Sir Francis Haddock was a drunkard and a hopeless reprobate! He was doomed to fail and he bequeathed that failure to his sons.

He starts to walk away from TINTIN, TINTIN follows him.

TINTIN

So it's true! The Haddock line is cursed!

He stops TINTIN with his cane.

SAKHARINE

What else have you found out?

TINTIN pushes the cane away.

TINTIN

What is there to find?

SAKHARINE swings the cane to TINTIN's other shoulder.

SAKHARINE

That depends what you're looking for.

TINTIN

I'm looking for answers, Mr. Sakharine ...

SAKHARINE

You're looking in the wrong place.

SAKHARINE offers TINTIN a THIN SMILE.

SAKHARINE (CONT'D)

It's late ... I think you should go home.

NESTOR hands the torch to TINTIN.

NESTOR

This way, Sir.

NESTOR and TINTIN leave the room. SAKHARINE takes a look at the ship.

INT. MARLINSPIKE HALL FOYER - NIGHT

NESTOR escorts a sullen TINTIN out.

NESTOR

It's a pity, sir.

TINTIN turns.

TINTIN

I'm sorry?

NESTOR

That the mast broke on your model ship, sir. I hope you found all the pieces. Things are so easily lost.

SAKHARINE (O.C.)

Nestor! Where are you?!

NESTOR

Good night, sir.

NESTOR closes the door.

EXT. 26 LABRADOR STREET - NIGHT

ANGLE ON: TINTIN and SNOWY walk down the dark, wet street to TINTIN'S apartment.

TINTIN

Some thing's are easily lost. What did he mean by that, Snowy? What was he trying to tell me? Some things are easily lost ...



INT. LABRADOR STREET STAIRS - EVENING

TINTIN and SNOWY climb the stairs to their apartment. The door is ajar.

TINTIN enters and turns on the lights.

ANGLE ON: TINTIN'S flat has been RANSACKED!!

TINTIN  
Great snakes!

Furniture overturned... books thrown off shelves... drawers pulled and emptied.

CLOSE ON: SNOWY whimpering and clawing at the CABINET.

TINTIN (CONT'D)  
What is it, Snowy?

TINTIN pulls the CABINET aside to reveal the METAL TUBE.

He squats down and picks up the tiny metal tube from the broken mast. TINTIN stands and examines the TUBE.

TINTIN (CONT'D)  
What's this? A ha! This was in the mast.

TINTIN walks over to the table sits down.

CLOSE ON: TINTIN unscrews the lid and shakes the TUBE... a small parchment, wrapped in ribbon and sealed with wax, falls into his palm.

ANGLE ON: TINTIN at the table ... SNOWY brings the magnifying glass in his jaws.

TINTIN (CONT'D)  
Good boy, Snowy.

TINTIN carefully unfurls the PARCHMENT and studies it. Written ornately across it in faded quill:

TINTIN (CONT'D)  
(reading)  
*"Three brothers joined. Three Unicorns in company, sailing in the new day sun will speak. For tis from the Light that Light will dawn, and then shine forth the Eagle's Cross."*

Beneath that, a few seemingly meaningless strokes and dashes.

TINTIN (CONT'D)

What are these markings? Some kind of secret language, or code? It makes no sense. But it does explain why they ransacked the flat. They were looking for this, and they didn't find it, which means ... they'll be back.

The doorbell downstairs JANGLES.

INT. 26 LABRADOR STREET HALLWAY - NIGHT

CLOSE ON: TINTIN tucking the scroll carefully into his wallet as he creeps down the stairs.

MRS. FINCH

No, I don't know where he is, Dearie. I think he's gone out. And anyway, it's after dark and Mr. Tintin is most particular about not admitting visitors after bedtime. I have to go back to my cocoa. I've got a very good book and a cup of cocoa. It's really lovely...

TINTIN steps forward to see MRS. FINCH talking to an unseen MAN at the door. The chain is still on, the door open only a crack.

TINTIN

Thank you, Mrs. Finch. I can look after this...

MRS. FINCH shoots TINTIN a sour look, vanishes into her apartment.

CLOSE ON: TINTIN approaching the door cautiously, a pistol in his hand, which he keeps behind his back. A familiar American voice is heard:

BARNABY

Hey kid, is that you? Open the door!

BARNABY presses his face through the crack.

TINTIN

What do you want?

BARNABY

Look, the game is up! He's gonna be back!

(MORE)

BARNABY (CONT'D)

Now, I know he wanted those boats,  
but I swear to God, I never thought  
he'd kill anyone over it.

TINTIN

Who? Who are you talking about?

BARNABY

I'm trying to tell you that your  
life is in danger - !

TINTIN

Answer me! Who???

BANG! BANG! BANG! Bullet holes PUNCH through the door!  
TINTIN throws himself to the floor!

The last bullet has taken out the chain. The door swings  
slowly open to reveal a bloody, unarmed BARNABY! He falls to  
the floor.

TINTIN (CONT'D)

(shouting)

Mrs. Finch! A man's been shot on  
our doorstep.

MRS. FINCH

(exasperated)

Not again ...

TINTIN

Call an ambulance!

TINTIN rushes into the street as a blue car drives away.  
SNOWY tries to chase after the CAR.

TINTIN (CONT'D)

Snowy!

SNOWY stops, but BARKS loudly.

ANGLE ON: BARNABY lies on the doormat clawing desperately at  
a newspaper. TINTIN runs back in.

TINTIN rolls BARNABY over, but he's out cold.

TINTIN (CONT'D)

Can you hear me? Can you...

TINTIN picks up the newspaper, stares at it.

INT. TINTIN'S APARTMENT - DAY

ANGLE ON: TINTIN studying the blood-stained newspaper. TINTIN lowers the paper, and before him stand the two plainclothes Interpol Detectives, THOMPSON and THOMSON.

THOMSON

The victim's name was Barnaby Dawes.

THOMPSON

He was one of the top agents at Interpol but we haven't got a clue what he was working on.

THOMSON

Quite right, Thompson. We're completely clueless.

TINTIN

Interpol doesn't have any other leads?

THOMSON

Oh, steady on, Tintin - we're still filling out the paperwork.

THOMPSON

Police work's not all glamour and guns - there's an awful lot of filing.

TINTIN

Well, I might have something for you. Before he lost consciousness, Dawes tried to tell me something and I think he was spelling out a word... B O U D... J A N.

CLOSE ON: TINTIN traces each letter that BARNABY marked with a BLOODY FINGER PRINT.

TINTIN (CONT'D)

...KARABOUDJAN.

THOMSON

Karaboudjan!

TINTIN

Does that mean anything to you?

THOMSON snatches the newspaper from TINTIN.

THOMSON  
Great Scotland Yard! That's  
extraordinary!

TINTIN  
What is?

THOMSON  
Worthington's have a half price  
sale on bowler hats!

THOMPSON snatches the paper.

THOMPSON  
Really, Thomson! This is hardly  
the time.

THOMPSON (CONT'D)  
Great Scotland Yard!

THOMSON  
What is it?

THOMPSON  
Canes are half price, too!

TINTIN  
Are you going to take charge of  
this evidence?

THOMSON  
Positively. Never fear, Tintin. The  
evidence is safe with us!

THOMSON snatches the newspaper back, and hurries out of the door at speed ... his foot catches the CAT on the landing and her FALLS from view, followed by SOUNDS of him TRIPPING and TUMBLING violently down the stairs.

THOMPSON  
Thomson! Where are you?

THOMPSON sits at the bottom of the stairs in a daze.

THOMSON  
Well, I'm already downstairs! Do  
try to keep up.

EXT. 26 LABRADOR STREET - DAY

ANGLE ON: TINTIN catches up to the THOM(P)SONS at the front door - he hands THOMPSON the NEWSPAPER.

TINTIN  
Wait -

THOMSON  
Oh?

TINTIN  
You dropped this.

THOMPSON  
Good heavens, Thomson - look after  
the evidence man.

THOMSON  
Sorry, Thompson. My mind is on  
other things.

THOMPSON  
Ah, yes. Our light-fingered  
larcenist.

TINTIN  
What?

THOMPSON  
The pickpocket. He has no idea  
what's coming.

THOMSON  
Go on, Tintin. Take my wallet.

THOMPSON opens his jacket. TINTIN pulls a wallet out,  
discovering it is attached to a piece of sturdy elastic, sewn  
into his jacket.

THOMPSON (CONT'D)  
(proudly)  
Yes, industrial strength elastic!

TINTIN  
(impressed)  
Very, uh, resourceful.

THOMPSON  
Oh, on the contrary, it was  
childishly simple.

THOMPSON  
Simply childish, I agree.

THOM(P)SONS tip their hats in farewell.

BOTH THOM(P)SONS  
Tintin...

TINTIN  
Gentlemen.

The THOM(P)SONS set off down the STREET.

THOMSON  
Mind you, I expect he's miles away  
by now.

THOMPSON  
I presume you're referring to the  
pickpocket?

THOMSON  
Yes, I mean, knowing we're just a  
few steps behind him.

A gray-haired man walks past TINTIN at the doorway. SNOWY  
growls and begins to follow him.

TINTIN steps out and kneels next to SNOWY holding him.

TINTIN  
Snowy, what is it boy? What do you  
see?

THOMPSON  
I don't suppose you'd fancy a cup  
of tea.

THOMSON  
You're quite mistaken, I'd love  
one.

THOMPSON  
My treat ...

ANGLE ON: The PICKPOCKET rubs his hands, as he walks briskly  
towards the THOM(P)SONS... his hand sweeps up, sliding into  
THOMSON'S jacket pocket. It is the familiar routine: a heal  
spin, straighten the jacket, touch the hat.

ANGLE ON: The wallet is pulled out, but quickly stretches at  
the end of the elastic!

THOMSON  
I've got you now!

QUICK SHOTS: THOMSON is nearly pulled off his feet, as the  
PICKPOCKET tugs at the wallet, stretching the elastic tight.

The PICKPOCKET lets the wallet go, and it snaps back into  
THOMSON'S FACE!

THOMPSON  
Devil! Stop, in the name of the  
law!

THOMPSON gives chase. His cane gets caught in the elastic.  
The elastic snaps back and slams THOMPSON to the ground.  
THOMPSON rips the PICKPOCKET'S jacket off, but gets it stuck  
on his head, blocking his vision.

THOMPSON (CONT'D)  
Got you!

He crashes into a LAMPPOST.

TINTIN  
What's going on down there? C'mon,  
Snowy!

TINTIN races towards the THOM(P)SONS, nearly knocking down  
the PICKPOCKET, ARISTIDES SILK, who's fleeing in panic.

SILK  
(chirpy)  
I do beg your pardon!!

TINTIN  
Sorry, sir!

TINTIN arrives to find the THOMPSON'S dizzy and bewildered.

THOMPSON  
The pickpocket, Tintin! He's  
getting away!

TINTIN  
(quiet shock)  
My wallet!

TINTIN looks back up the street... quickly realizing it was  
the old man he banged into.

CLOSE ON: With dawning dread, TINTIN reaches into his pocket -  
his WALLET has been TAKEN!

TINTIN (CONT'D)  
It's gone!  
(urgent)  
Come on! Snowy, after him!

TINTIN starts running through the fog to catch the SILK.

TINTIN (CONT'D)  
Stop! Wait!



He chases him across the foggy street, but narrowly avoids getting hit by a CAR.

For a brief moment, TINTIN is disorientated by CAR HEADLIGHTS, casting wild beams in the fog and swerving crazily to avoid hitting him.

ANGLE ON: Two canes suddenly hook TINTIN'S arms and drag him and SNOWY to the safety of the footpath... the THOM(P)SONS have rescued him.

THOMPSON

Got ya!

THOMSON

Steady on!

TINTIN

I've lost him!

TINTIN turns to the THOM(P)SONS.

TINTIN (CONT'D)

You must find my wallet! It's very important. I have to get it back.

THOMPSON

And you will! Leave it to the professionals.

ANGLE ON: TINTIN walks back towards his apartment, his pace quickens as he forms a plan.

TINTIN

We've lost the scroll, but we haven't lost the story. Karaboudjan. That's an Armenian word. That's our lead, Snowy. What was Barnaby Dawes trying to tell us when he said our lives are in danger?

ANGLE ON: TINTIN suddenly stops as he reaches the DOOR to his FLAT. Two workmen are carrying a large wooden crate from a RED DELIVERY VAN towards TINTIN'S flat. TINTIN is puzzled to find a DELIVERY MAN in the HALLWAY; this is ALLAN.

ALLAN

Mister Tin - tin? Delivery for ya.

TINTIN

But I didn't order anything?

TINTIN looks at the CRATE, which is being carried towards the DOORWAY. Before he can react, a handkerchief is clasped over TINTIN's mouth. His eyes roll and he collapses into ALLAN's arms.

ALLAN

Well, that's because it's you  
that's getting delivered.

TINTIN is bundled inside the crate, the lid is slammed shut. Stencilled on the side, the word KARABOUDJAN.

ALLAN (CONT'D)

Quick! Get him in the van.

SNOWY sinks his teeth into ALLAN'S leg.

ALLAN (CONT'D)

Get off me you confounded mutt!

He shakes SNOWY off into the hallway and slams the door.

INT. 26 LABRADOR STREET - DAY

ANGLE ON: SNOWY races up the STAIRS, towards the STUDY then leaps on the DESK.

ALLAN climbs into the RED VAN.

ALLAN

He bit me! Quick!

The RED VAN pulls away.

SNOWY watches from the window sill as the van drives away. A FIRE TRUCK approaches.

ANGLE ON: SNOWY flies through the AIR, LANDING on a passing truck.

The fire truck, now directly behind the van, slams on its brakes as the van comes to an abrupt stop and the LADDER quickly extends, taking SNOWY with it. SNOWY falls onto the HOOD of the VAN, is thrown off but pursues ALLAN and the others as fast as his legs will carry him.

SNOWY hops onto passing BICYCLE and runs through a pen of COWS before arriving at the docks, and the KARABOUDJAN.

As TINTIN's crate is loaded aboard a massive ship, SNOWY sneaks up the ropes tethering the SHIP to the dock. Various CREWMEN yell orders from the dock.

CREWMAN (O.S.)  
Come on, come on!

The SHIP heads out of the harbor.

INT. KARABOUDJAN LOWER HOLD - NIGHT

WOOZY ANGLE: TINTIN'S POV, coming in and out of FOCUS as we hear VOICES:

ALLAN  
Eh, not here. Look your side.

TOM  
(grunting)  
Hang on. Nothing.

ALLAN  
Well, check that pocket.

TINTIN is in a cage being searched by ALLAN and TOM, the workmen who grabbed him at his flat.

TOM  
I've looked at this one already,  
I'm sure of it.

ALLAN  
Have a look in his socks.

SAKHARINE enters the hold at a quick pace.

SAKHARINE  
Have you found it?

ALLAN  
Doesn't have it!

TOM  
It's not on him, boss. It's not  
here.

ANGLE ON: TINTIN sits up groggily, finding himself bound in a dank ship's hold.

SAKHARINE  
Not here? Then where is it?

TINTIN  
Where's what?

ANGLE ON: SAKHARINE smacks the cage with his cane.

SAKHARINE

Oh, I am tired of your games. The scroll, from the Unicorn. A piece of paper, like this.

SAKHARINE produces a SCROLL, which looks very similar to TINTIN'S.

TINTIN

You mean the poem.

SAKHARINE

Yes!

TINTIN

The poem written in Old English.

SAKHARINE

Yes.

TINTIN

It was inside a cylinder.

SAKHARINE

Yes.

TINTIN

Concealed in the mast.

SAKHARINE

Yes!

SAKHARINE'S FACE, full of anticipation, contorts into an UGLY SCOWL.

TINTIN

I don't have it.

SAKHARINE lifts his cane towards TOM. TOM takes off the sheath. SAKHARINE draws a long, thin sword from within. He presses the tip to TINTIN'S face.

SAKHARINE

You know the value of that scroll. Why else would you take it?

TINTIN

(realization)

Two ships ... two scrolls ... both part of a puzzle. You have one, you need the other. But that's not it. There's something else.

SAKHARINE bends down to look TINTIN in the eye.

SAKHARINE  
I will find it, with or without  
your help. You need to think about  
exactly how useful you are to me...

ANGLE ON: SAKHARINE leads TOM and ALLAN out of the room.

SAKHARINE (CONT'D)  
We'll deal with him on the way.

TOM  
Aye aye, sir.

SAKHARINE  
Hold this course.

As ALLAN closes the door, SNOWY sneaks into the room. ALLAN  
SLAMS the heavy, watertight door and locks it.

TINTIN spots SNOWY as the dog runs across the hold to his  
master.

TINTIN  
Snowy! It's good to see you, too.  
See if you can chew through these  
ropes.

SNOWY goes to work on the ropes.

EXT. KARABOUDJAN UPPER STAIRWAY - NIGHT

ANGLE ON: SAKHARINE CLIMBS the last STAIRS to the BRIDGE ...  
he walks to his cabin, he pauses to pass instructions to  
ALLAN and TOM. WIND whips his HAIR.

SAKHARINE  
Well, he's lying! He must have the  
scroll. The question is - what has  
he done with it?

TOM  
We searched him all over, boss.

SAKHARINE  
I want you to go back down there  
and make him talk. Break every bone  
in his body if you have to.

TOM  
(dismayed)  
Oh, that's nasty!

SAKHARINE

You know the stakes, you know what we're playing for. Just do it!

Another CREW MEMBER, PEDRO, comes running up to them.

PEDRO

Mister Sakharine! Mister Sakharine!  
All hell has broken loose! It's a  
disaster! The Captain has come  
around -

ALLAN

What!

PEDRO

He's conscious! He's accusing you  
of mutiny - he says you turned the  
crew against him.

ALLAN

Sounds like he's sobered up again.

SAKHARINE

Well, don't just stand there, get  
him another bottle.

PEDRO

Si, senor.

ALLAN AND TOM

Aye, sir.

WIDE ON: SAKHARINE goes into his cabin ...

INT. KARABOUDJAN LOWER HOLD - NIGHT

TINTIN looks around. He grabs a crowbar and takes it to the door. He jams it into the wheel; the door is now locked from the INSIDE!

He moves to a crate and pulls the top off, he takes the top and covers the window in the door with it.

TINTIN walks back to a large crate, it is filled with live animals. A GROWL. He opens a PORTHOLE.

EXT. KARABOUDJAN LOWER HOLD - CONTINUOUS

ANGLE ON: A lower opens and TINTIN leans out of the small window. He's on a large CARGO SHIP, which is ploughing through a rough ocean at speed. There's nowhere to escape to.

He looks up and sees another porthole. Loud, unintelligible SINGING emanates from the open window.

INT. KARABOUDJAN LOWER CORRIDOR - NIGHT

ANGLE ON: ALLAN and TOM as they come down the corridor.

ALLAN attempts to open the door... it's locked! ALLAN and TOM look at each other.

TOM  
(encouragingly)  
Jiggle it a bit - it's just stuck.

ALLAN  
Jiggle?

TOM  
Here ...

TOM attempts to be helpful by showing ALLAN how to open the door - ALLAN swats his hands away, angrily.

ALLAN  
What you doing? Geddofff! It's not stuck, you idiot - he's bolted it from the inside!

INT. KARABOUDJAN LOWER HOLD - NIGHT

TINTIN looks about the room.

ALLAN (O.S.)  
So you want to play it like that then, do you? Tintin?

INT. KARABOUDJAN LOWER CORRIDOR - NIGHT

ALLAN  
(to TOM in a grim voice)  
Get the TNT.

INT. KARABOUDJAN LOWER HOLD - NIGHT

TINTIN turns and looks at the room again:

CLOSE ON: TINTIN's puzzled FACE, as he studies his surroundings.

TINTIN  
(thinking)  
Broken crates ... rope ...  
champagne. What else do we have,  
Snowy?

INT. KARABOUDJAN LOWER CORRIDOR - NIGHT

ANGLE ON: ALLAN, TOM set up a wicked-looking SHIP'S CLUB.  
They brace it against the door. A COUPLE of OTHER THUGS are  
watching nearby.

ALLAN  
There are other ways to open this  
door! They'll be swabbing the  
decks with your innards when we're  
done with you!

INT. KARABOUDJAN LOWER HOLD - NIGHT

TINTIN grabs a CRATE OF CHAMPAGNE and lines it up. He takes  
another crowbar and moves to a CRATE. He rips off some  
PLANKS.

INT. KARABOUDJAN LOWER CORRIDOR - NIGHT

ALLAN quickly sets up the EXPLOSIVE CHARGES against the DOOR,  
ready to blast it open.

ALLAN  
Hurry up, hurry up!

INT. KARABOUDJAN LOWER HOLD - NIGHT

TINTIN grabs the planks and the rope and ties the planks  
together. He hurries over to the porthole.

INT. KARABOUDJAN LOWER CORRIDOR - NIGHT

ALLAN takes the fuse line and moves towards TOM, he lights  
the match on TOM'S face -

EXT. KARABOUDJAN - NIGHT

ANGLE ON: TINTIN leans out of the PORTHOLE as far as he  
dares.



INT. KARABOUDJAN LOWER CORRIDOR - NIGHT

ALLAN lights the FUSE.

EXT. KARABOUDJAN - NIGHT

TINTIN takes aim and throws the KNOTTED PLANKS as high as he can, aiming at another OPEN PORTHOLE far above. TINTIN watches as the PLANKS arc up, hover and then plummet back down towards him! BONK! The PLANKS bounce off TINTIN'S HEAD...

INT. KARABOUDJAN LOWER CORRIDOR - NIGHT

ANGLE ON: ALLAN, TOM and the THUGS take COVER a safe distance from TINTIN'S DOOR.

EXT. KARABOUDJAN - NIGHT

TINTIN takes aim again.

INT. KARABOUDJAN LOWER CORRIDOR - NIGHT

The FUSE LINE continues to burn.

INT. KARABOUDJAN LOWER CORRIDOR - NIGHT

ALLAN takes cover next to TOM. He uses TOM as a body shield.

ALLAN  
Don't move.

EXT. KARABOUDJAN - NIGHT

TINTIN throws the knotted planks up to the PORTHOLE.

INT. HADDOCK'S CABIN - NIGHT

THWACK! TINTIN'S PLANKS fly into the room, walloping CAPTAIN HADDOCK on the back of the HEAD! HADDOCK slumps forward on the table, HEAD SPINNING!

INT. KARABOUDJAN LOWER CORRIDOR - NIGHT

ANGLE ON: TINTIN'S DOOR is blown CLEAN OFF its hinges! SMOKE pours into the CORRIDOR.

ALLAN  
Move! Let's go!

THUG  
Let me at him!

GUNS in HAND, ALLAN leads the THUGS towards TINTIN'S ROOM.

SUDDENLY! BANG! BANG! ALLAN and the THUGS retreat from a VOLLEY OF GUNFIRE, coming from inside the HOLD!

TOM  
He's got a big shooter!

TOM jumps in front of the door, ready to fire when he is hit and falls to the ground.

TOM (CONT'D)  
Got me!

A CHAMPAGNE CORK lands on the ground next to him. ALLAN picks it up.

INT. KARABOUDJAN LOWER CORRIDOR - NIGHT

ALLAN picks up a CHAMPAGNE CORK.

ALLAN  
Hold your fire!

INT. KARABOUDJAN LOWER HOLD - NIGHT

ANGLE ON: ALLAN peers around the corner of the blasted DOORWAY ... TINTIN has carefully positioned rows of champagne bottles aimed at the doorway. With each vibration, several corks pop out, like gunfire. No sign of TINTIN.

TOM  
He ain't here! He's vanished!

Another cork POPS, hitting TOM square in the forehead and knocking him out.

ALLAN  
He's hiding. Search the ship.  
Quickly!

INT. HADDOCK'S CABIN - NIGHT

HADDOCK rises, stunned by the blow to the head. He looks around wildly, thinking he has been set upon.

ANGLE ON: HADDOCK catches sight of SNOWY ...

HADDOCK  
Argghhh! A giant rat of Sumatra!

He stands and flinches back, startled, he punches through the bird cage with his head and gets caught inside it. He jumps again as TINTIN climbs through the porthole!

HADDOCK quickly snatches up a LEG from a BROKEN CHAIR ... he points it at TINTIN, aiming it as if he is *en guard*.

HADDOCK (CONT'D)  
Aha! Thought you could sneak in here and catch me with me trousers down, eh?

TINTIN quickly snatches up the other LEG of the BROKEN CHAIR brandishing it front of him like a sword ... he quickly parries a lunge from HADDOCK ...

TINTIN  
I'd rather you kept your trousers on, if it's all the same to you.

TINTIN and HADDOCK circle each other warily ... HADDOCK up ends a TABLE, TINTIN has to jump on to a trunk to escape as HADDOCK swings wildly at him.

HADDOCK  
I know your game - you're one of them!

TINTIN  
I'm sorry?

HADDOCK  
They sent you here to kill me, eh?

TINTIN  
(dodging another swipe)  
Look - I don't know who you are -

HADDOCK  
That's how he planned to bump me off. Murdered in my bed by a baby-faced assassin!

SNOWY has HADDOCK's pant-leg in his teeth.

TINTIN  
Assassin?! Look - you've got it all wrong, I was kidnapped by a gang of thugs.

HADDOCK

The filthy swine! He's turned the whole crew against me!

TINTIN

Who?

HADDOCK

A sour-faced man with a sugary name. He bought them all off - every last man!

TINTIN

Sakharine!

At the mention of SAKHARINE'S name, HADDOCK stops in his tracks.

HADDOCK

Nobody takes my ship!

TINTIN

You're the Captain?

HADDOCK

(loudly)

Of course I'm the Captain - who else could I be?!

TINTIN

Shhhh!

HADDOCK

(slumps)

I've been locked in this room for days, with only whiskey to sustain my mortal soul.

TINTIN tries the door... it opens. NOT LOCKED.

HADDOCK (CONT'D)

Oh. Well, I assumed it was locked.

TINTIN

Well, it's not. Now you must excuse me - if they find me here, they'll kill me. I have to keep moving... try and find my way off this drunken tub.

TINTIN slips out of the cabin, into the corridor.

HADDOCK

Tub! Tub!!

INT. KARABOUDJAN LOWER CORRIDOR - NIGHT

ANGLE ON: TINTIN steps into the corridor, he closes the door and comes face-to-face with a SAILOR!

HADDOCK

Tub?

The SAILOR goes for TINTIN manages to grab him, and they wrestle.

HADDOCK (CONT'D)

(angry)

Tub!!!!

HADDOCK opens the door.

CLOSE ON: HADDOCK PUNCHES THE GUARD OUT COLD!

HADDOCK close the door again.

The SAILOR starts to come to and moves forward, HADDOCK slams the door on the SAILOR.

TINTIN catches the SAILOR and throws him forward onto HADDOCK'S ARMS.

TINTIN

(impressed)

Thanks.

HADDOCK

Pleasure.

TINTIN and HADDOCK pull his UNCONSCIOUS BODY into HADDOCK'S CABIN.

TINTIN

I'm Tintin, by the way.

TINTIN offers his hand, which HADDOCK takes.

HADDOCK

Haddock, Archibald Haddock. There's a long boat up on deck - follow me.

TINTIN does a double-take as HADDOCK slips into the corridor.

TINTIN

Hang on a second - did you say Haddock?!

But HADDOCK is gone... TINTIN takes off after him.

INT. KARABOUDJAN BRIDGE - NIGHT

ANGLE ON: SAKHARINE is ENRAGED! He dresses down ALLAN and TOM.

SAKHARINE  
How could you let them escape? Find them, find them both!!

ALLAN  
Don't worry, we'll kill 'em, sir.

SAKHARINE  
No, you can kill the boy. Not Haddock.

TOM is disappointed by this.

TOM  
Oh, he's just a hopeless old soak... we should've killed him long since.

SAKHARINE swings round on TOM, glowering.

SAKHARINE  
You think it's an accident that I chose Haddock's ship, Haddock's crew...  
(to ALLAN)  
Haddock's treacherous first mate? Nothing is an accident.

SAKHARINE turns, the wind catching his hair, his eyes NARROWING. He holds up his arms, and within seconds the HUNTING FALCON lands on his wrist.

SAKHARINE (CONT'D)  
We go back a long way, Captain Haddock and I. We have unfinished business and this time I'm going to make him pay!

INT. KARABOUJDAN UPPER CORRIDOR - NIGHT

HADDOCK is leading them through the maze of corridors... they pause to listen to sounds of FOOTSTEPS and SHOUTS.

HADDOCK  
We have to reach a locked door at the end of this corridor. This is gonna be tricky!

TINTIN

(whispers)

You wouldn't happen to be related to the Haddocks of Marlinspike Hall, would you?

HADDOCK

(guarded)

Why do you ask?

TINTIN

Why, it's for a story I've been working on ... an old shipwreck that happened off the coast of Barbados - a Man o'War; triple-masted, fifty guns.

HADDOCK suddenly turns on TINTIN and slams him up against the wall.

HADDOCK

What do you know of the Unicorn?!

TINTIN

Not a lot - that's why I'm asking you!

HADDOCK

(low voice)

The secret of that ship is known only to my family. It has been passed down from generation to generation. My Granddaddy himself with his dying breath told me the tale.

HADDOCK stares off into the distance, lost in memories.

TINTIN

And?

HADDOCK

Gone.

TINTIN

What do you mean, gone?

HADDOCK

I was so upset at when he kicked the bucket. I had no choice but to drown my sorrows. When I woke up in the morning, it was gone. I'd forgotten it all.

TINTIN  
Everything?!

HADDOCK  
Every last word.

HADDOCK heads off down the corridor with TINTIN following.

TINTIN  
Well, is there somebody else in  
your family, maybe they would know?

HADDOCK  
(shaking his head)  
Sir Francis had three sons. All but  
my bloodline failed. I am the last  
of the Haddocks.

TINTIN  
Did you say 'three' sons?!

A couple of CREW MEMBERS are approaching the stairs. HADDOCK and TINTIN get down quickly and hide under the stairs with SNOWY.

The CREW MEMBERS move down the stairs and out the doorway SNOWY whimpers, and TINTIN tries to put his hand on SNOWY's snout.

One the crew are gone, HADDOCK heads up the stairs, TINTIN follows.

CLOSE ON: TINTIN, realization dawning on his face.

TINTIN (CONT'D)  
I know what Sakharine's looking  
for!

HADDOCK  
What are you raving on about?

TINTIN  
It was written on the scroll.  
(reciting)  
*"Three brothers joined; three  
Unicorns in company sailing  
in the noonday sun will speak."*

HADDOCK  
Really?



TINTIN  
(excited)  
Sir Francis didn't make two models  
of the Unicorn - he made three!  
Three ships for three sons!

HADDOCK turns to TINTIN.

HADDOCK  
Excellent.

HADDOCK heads off, down the corridor.

TINTIN  
Sakharine's after the third model  
ship.

HADDOCK try to wrench open a LOCKED DOOR.

HADDOCK  
Barnacles! Someone's locked the  
door!

TINTIN  
Well, is there a key?

HADDOCK  
A key? Aah!

HADDOCK breathes a sigh of ALCOHOL FUMES into TINTIN's  
face, who coughs.

HADDOCK (CONT'D)  
Yes ... now that would be the  
problem!

HADDOCK returns the way they came, and TINTIN follows.

INT. KARABOUDJAN SLEEPING QUARTERS - NIGHT

A door quietly swings OPEN, revealing a gloomy dormitory full  
of swaying bunks. Ugly, drunken CREWMEN sprawled in hammocks,  
SNORING.

CLOSE ON: HADDOCK and TINTIN peering round the DOOR.

HADDOCK  
(whispers)  
Mr. Jaggerman, top bunk in the  
center - keeper of the keys.  
Careful mind, he's a restless  
sleeper on account of the tragic  
loss of his eyelids.

TINTIN  
He lost his eyelids?

HADDOCK  
Aye, now that was a card game to remember - ah, you really had to be there. I'd do this myself, Tintin, but you've a lighter tread and less chance of waking the boys.

TINTIN  
Are you sure this is a good idea?

HADDOCK  
You've nothing to worry about.

ANGLE ON: TINTIN sets off, sneaking between the bunks, towards the sleeping MR. JAGGERMAN - the KEYS are visible in his hand.

Haddock (CONT'D)  
(loud whisper)  
Provided they all stay asleep.

TINTIN struggles to keep his balance with the heavy yaw and roll of the ship.

HADDOCK (CONT'D)  
Don't, I wouldn't get too close to Mr. Hobbs - he's very handy with a razor. And I'd steer clear of Mr. Gitch - sacked as shepherd on account of his 'animal husbandry'!

TINTIN and SNOWY climb onto the high bunk, reaching for the KEYS hanging from JAGGERMAN'S HAND.

ANGLE ON: TINTIN'S FINGERTIPS nearly touch the KEYS.

He grabs SNOWY and holds him out towards the KEYS, but SNOWY instead goes for JAGGERMAN'S SANDWICH.

TINTIN  
Not the sandwich! The keys!

TINTIN falls in a cascade of SNORING SAILORS, DEAD FISH and a large SHARK CARCASS. SAILORS from surrounded bunks pile on top of him.

CLOSE ON: SNOWY stands on top of the pile of SAILORS. TINTIN'S FIST, KEYS included, burst from the pile. HADDOCK quietly claps.

INT. KARABOUDJAN UPPER CORRIDOR - NIGHT

ANGLE ON: TINTIN hands the KEYS to an impressed HADDOCK.

HADDOCK  
You're a brave lad, Tintin - my  
heart was in my mouth, I don't mind  
telling you.

HADDOCK unlocks the rusty door.

HADDOCK (CONT'D)  
Well, that is, if it was my heart.  
You know, judging by my stomach, it  
could've been anything, really.

TINTIN  
Hurry up, Captain. We've no time to  
lose -

TINTIN freezes in DISBELIEF! The door opens to reveal a  
storeroom filled with BOTTLES OF WHISKEY and RUM!

HADDOCK  
Bingo! Just the necessities, of  
course!

HADDOCK quickly stuffs a few bottles into various pockets! He  
kisses one of the BOTTLES.

HADDOCK (CONT'D)  
To the lifeboats.

TINTIN stands AGHAST for a MOMENT, then follows HADDOCK.

INT. SHIP CORRIDOR - MOMENTS LATER

The DECK of the SHIP is covered with SAILORS searching with  
FLASHLIGHTS. A group of WELDERS working on a SEAPLANE.

ALLAN  
Keep your eyes peeled!

SAILOR #1  
I'll go aft!

SAILOR #2  
Any sign of him, Buster?

SAILOR #3  
Not yet! Watch yourself, the boss  
says he's a handful.

ANGLE ON: HADDOCK stumbles out a door, onto the DECK and almost into TOM. TINTIN pulls him back inside at the last moment.

TINTIN grabs HADDOCK bottle of WHISKEY, and goes back to clobber TOM. Just as TINTIN swings his ARM, HADDOCK snatches the BOTTLE ... TINTIN knocks TOM out with his FIST, glares and HADDOCK and shakes his sore hand.

EXT. KARABOUDJAN DECK - NIGHT

It's a rough, stormy ocean. HADDOCK, TINTIN and SNOWY move towards the lifeboat. HADDOCK and TINTIN quickly remove the ropes from the hooks and start to push the boat out towards the edge.

ALLAN  
Boss wants us to check the coms.  
Come out of it.

SUDDENLY a door opens, we hear A MORSE CODE noise. ALLAN and TOM pass by.

ALLAN (CONT'D)  
Come on, in here.

HADDOCK points in their direction.

HADDOCK  
It's Allan!

ALLAN and TOM walk through a door.

TINTIN  
Is that the bridge?

HADDOCK  
Aye, on the other side of the radio room.

TINTIN  
Radio room?

TINTIN gestures for HADDOCK to stay put in the shadows.

TINTIN (CONT'D)  
(hushed)  
Wait here, Captain. Sound the alarm if anyone comes.

HADDOCK  
Careful, Tintin!

TINTIN has already moved towards the stairs ... SNOWY follows.

SAILORS SEARCHING SHIP  
I said keep searching! There's no  
one here! Who we looking for,  
anyway?

ANGLE ON: TINTIN sneaks to the RADIO ROOM door. ALLAN is over TOM'S shoulder as he reads an incoming Morse message:

TOM  
Message just come through, boss.

ALLAN  
What's it say?

TOM  
(reading)  
"The Milanese Nightingale has  
landed. Waiting in the wings for  
action."

TINTIN  
(to himself)  
Milanese Nightingale.

TINTIN frowns... ALLAN calmly plucks the RADIO MESSAGE from TOM'S HAND.

ALLAN  
(relieved)  
Now pray this cheers him up!

As they disappear, TINTIN sneaks in.

INT. KARABOUDJAN RADIO ROOM - NIGHT

TINTIN enters the room with SNOWY. SNOWY sees a SANDWICHES, jumps on the desk and begins to eat, fighting a RAT for it.

ANGLE ON: TINTIN quickly searches for any clues to the ship's destination. He scans charts, looks at written messages. He picks up one of the notes and reads it.

TINTIN  
Bagghar.

TINTIN notices a BROCHURE with a picture of BAGGHAR and BEN SALAAD.

TINTIN (CONT'D)  
What's this?

He picks it up - and opens it at random. We see a picture of the town.

TINTIN (CONT'D)  
(reading)  
The sultanate of Bagghar.

A second page. A portrait of BEN SALAAD.

TINTIN (CONT'D)  
(reading)  
Ruled over by Sheik Omar Ben Salaad, whose love of music and culture is matched only by his love of...

TINTIN turns the page. He sees something that we don't.

TINTIN (CONT'D)  
Great snakes!

He moves over to nearby wall covered in maps, quickly scanning for something...

TINTIN (CONT'D)  
Bagghar. The port of Bagghar.  
Morocco!

SUDDENLY, TINTIN gets an idea! TINTIN shoves the brochure into his pocket, quickly puts the headphones on and sits at the desk, fiddling with the frequency knobs on the old radio.

EXT. KARABOUDJAN DECK - NIGHT

ANGLE ON: HADDOCK holding onto the boat.

HADDOCK  
Tintin!

ANGLE ON: A sleeping CREW MEMBER, huddled in the lifeboat! He wakes with a start and is surprised to find CAPTAIN HADDOCK holding one of the lifeboat ropes... he produces a PISTOL!

CREW MEMBER  
Hey! Put your hands up!

ANGLE ON: HADDOCK raises his HANDS, letting go of the ROPE ... the LIFEBOAT drops into the water, while the CREW MEMBER gets tangled in the ROPE and swings only a few feet from the WATER.

HADDOCK  
And let that be a lesson to you!

HADDOCK moves down to untie the next BOAT.

CREW MEMBER  
Help me!

INT. KARABOUDJAN RADIO ROOM - NIGHT

CLOSE ON: MORSE TAPPER ... click ... click ... click ...  
TINTIN is BUSY sending a MESSAGE.

INT. KARABOUDJAN RADIO ROOM - NIGHT

SUDDENLY! TOM OPENS THE SIDE DOOR AND SEES TINTIN!

TOM  
(shouting)  
In here! He's in here!

He raises his gun. SNOWY jumps up and grabs his arm, the gun FIRES, giving TINTIN a valuable second to REACT.

TINTIN stands and punches TOM. We really see TINTIN'S ability to look after himself against a THUG. With the second punch TOM bumps into ALLAN as he is coming out.

ALLAN gets tangled up with TOM.

TINTIN grabs TOM'S gun and runs out with SNOWY.

ALLAN chases TINTIN, TOM follows.

EXT. KARABOUDJAN DECK - NIGHT

TINTIN races from the RADIO ROOM as a GUARD spots HADDOCK.

GUARD  
Here! By the lifeboats!

ALLAN  
Get out the way!

TINTIN runs past with ALLAN right behind him.

ALLAN (CONT'D)  
Get him!

GUARD  
Right!

ALLAN and the GUARD open fire. TINTIN runs among cargo crates and punches another GUARD to the ground. The GUARD recovers and fires a spray of bullets at TINTIN.

GUARD #2  
Why, you little... !

ANGLE ON: TINTIN and SNOWY races along the deck and down the stairs onto the deck BELOW, and SPRINT towards HADDOCK and the LIFEBOAT.

SAILORS SEARCHING SHIP  
Oy! He's up there! Get him, lads!

TINTIN has TOM'S PISTOL. HADDOCK falls into the LIFEBOAT where SNOWY is already waiting. The ROPE slips, and the BOAT dangles precariously. HADDOCK slams into a SEAT, smashing a number of BOTTLES hidden in his POCKETS; WHISKEY and BROKEN GLASS fall into the OCEAN below.

TINTIN returns GUNFIRE, as ALLAN enters and fires at him. TINTIN fires at a SPOTLIGHT, hits the "ON" lever and turning the light on, blinding the CREW pursuing him.

TINTIN jumps into the boat.

CLOSE ON: TINTIN raises the PISTOL, takes AIM ...

BANG! TINTIN shoots the last ROPE, and the LIFEBOAT falls into the OCEAN with TINTIN, HADDOCK and SNOWY clinging onto it! A SAILOR is tangled in the ROPE.

SAILOR  
Help me!

An angry SAKHARINE strolls onto the DECK.

ANGLE ON: TINTIN and HADDOCK row for their lives.

ANGLE ON: ALLAN runs onto the BRIDGE.

ALLAN  
Turn the ship 'round! Give me a flare!

INT. ROWBOAT/OCEAN - NIGHT

ANGLE ON: ALLAN runs back onto the DECK and fires a SIGNAL FLARE into the SKY.

ANGLE ON: TINTIN lies down in the BOAT.



TINTIN  
Captain! Get down! Get down!

A CREW MEMBER spots a ROWBOAT using the SEARCHLIGHT.

CREW MEMBER #2  
There he is!

ALLAN  
Get out of the way!

TOM runs to the BRIDGE.

TOM  
Now full ahead! Full speed!

The KARABOUDJAN speeds towards the BOAT.

ALLAN  
Got you now!

ANGLE ON: TINTIN and HADDOCK continue to hide.

TINTIN  
Stay down!

The ROWBOAT is demolished by the MASSIVE SHIP.

CREW MEMBER #3  
Look! Down 'ere!

ANGLE ON: EMPTY BOTTLES float around rowboat debris at it  
sinks into the OCEAN.

ANGLE ON: The second ROWBOAT, TINTIN and HADDOCK'S ROWBOAT.  
TINTIN sits up; they row away from the KARABOUDJAN.

ANGLE ON: SAKHARINE approaches TOM. He is absolutely furious.

SAKHARINE  
Idiots! You idiots! What have you  
done?

TOM  
We killed them, boss. Like you  
wanted!

SAKHARINE grabs TOM. About to throw him overboard.

SAKHARINE  
No. Not 'like' I wanted. I needed  
Haddock alive.

ALLAN

Wait a minute, boss. There are two boats missing.

TOM

So that one must have been a decoy!

SAKHARINE'S EYES suddenly go to the ground beneath his feet. He bends over and he picks up the small piece of paper with the Morse code and the word "Bagghar" written on it.

SAKHARINE holds up the piece of paper.

SAKHARINE

They're on to us, and our destination. Find them! Make absolutely certain they never reach Bagghar!

TOM

Yes, boss.

SAKHARINE turns his head and we pan with his turn onto the SEA PLANE already rigged on a CATAPULT LAUNCHER at the stern of the KARABOUDJAN.

EXT. OCEAN/ROW BOAT - DAWN

We pick up TINTIN, SNOWY and HADDOCK after their escape from the KARABOUDJAN. TINTIN rowing. They are all alone on the wide, wide open sea.

TINTIN

We have to get to Bagghar ahead of Sakharine.

HADDOCK

I know! I know!

(beat)

Why?

TINTIN

Because he has the third model ship.

HADDOCK

How do you know?

TINTIN takes out the BROCHURE that he found in the RADIO ROOM.

TINTIN

The sheikh collects old ships and  
this is the prize of his  
collection.

TINTIN opens the brochure and we see a picture of the third  
UNICORN, exhibited in a glass case. The considerable  
thickness of the glass is apparent.

HADDOCK

Blistering blue barnacles, that is  
the Unicorn!

TINTIN

Captain, do you see the distortion  
around the model - it means Ben  
Salaad exhibits it in a bullet  
proof glass case in his palace!

HADDOCK

And Sakharine is going there to  
steal it!

TINTIN

He has a secret weapon. The  
Milanese Nightingale. But that  
won't be enough to solve the  
mystery, and that is why Sakharine  
needs you. That's why he made you  
his prisoner! There is something he  
needs you to remember.

HADDOCK

I don't follow you.

TINTIN

I read it in a book. That only a  
true Haddock can discover the  
secret of the Unicorn.

They look at one another.

HADDOCK

I don't remember anything about  
anything!

TINTIN

But you must know about your  
ancestor, Sir Francis. It's your  
family legacy!

HADDOCK

My memory isn't what it used to be.

TINTIN  
What did it use to be?

HADDOCK  
I've forgotten.

EXT. OCEAN/ROW BOAT - DAWN - CONTINUOUS

TINTIN  
Captain, can you get us to Bagghar?

HADDOCK  
What sort of a stupid question is that? Give me those oars, I'll show you some real seamanship, laddie.

ANGLE ON: HADDOCK stands and moves to TINTIN, snatches up the oars.

HADDOCK (CONT'D)  
I'll not be doubted by some pipsqueak tuft of ginger and his irritating dog! I am master and commander of the seas!

He swings them expertly over his shoulder, turning his back on TINTIN.

CLOSE ON: WHACK! The OAR clunks TINTIN on the side of his HEAD, knocking him out cold. AS HADDOCK completes his turn he hits SNOWY out cold too!

HADDOCK (CONT'D)  
I know these waters better than the warts on my mother's face!

HADDOCK glances back over his shoulder, where TINTIN and SNOWY are slumped unconscious against the side of the ROWBOAT.

HADDOCK (CONT'D)  
Look at the pair of them - fast asleep! Typical landlubbers, no stamina these days! Nevermind. I'll get ya there, Tintin.

ANGLE ON: HADDOCK heaves back on the OARS ...

EXT. SILK'S APARTMENT - DAY

ANGLE ON: The familiar PATENT SHOES and GLOVED HANDS of the PICKPOCKET.

THOMSON and THOMPSON stroll down the street, SHOPS and APARTMENTS behind them. The PICKPOCKET, ARISTIDES SILK, sees them coming.

THOMPSON  
Look, Thomson! There's the fellow.

THOMSON  
Uh huh!

He tries to look casual as he reaches for his KEYS.

SILK  
Oh my!

THOMPSON  
Mr. Silk?

SILK  
Yes.

THOMPSON  
My name is Thompson.

THOMSON  
And Thomson.

THOMPSON/THOMSON  
We're police officers!

SILK  
Oh. Oh, crumbs!

SILK'S first thought is to make a run for it. He turns and does just that. A CRASH is heard. The THOM(P)SONS run over to him.

THOMSON  
Goodness gracious!

THOMPSON  
Mr. Silk!

SILK has slammed into an OLD WOMAN carrying a cage of CANARIES from a PET SHOP. He is in a heap with three little YELLOW CANARIES fluttering around his head.

THOMSON  
Are you ok?

THOMPSON  
Poor fella...

THOMSON  
Are you all right?

THOMPSON  
Are you all right, sir?

The little CANARIES are real. A PET SHOP OWNER retrieves them with a net as a MAN helps the OLD WOMAN.

THOMSON and THOMPSON together get SILK to his feet.

THOMPSON (CONT'D)  
No need to run away, sir.

THOMSON  
No, no. You see. Yesterday, we very nearly caught the pickpocket who's been terrorizing the town.

SILK  
(dazed)  
Pickpocket.

THOMPSON  
We pulled his jacket off and inside we found a wallet.

THOMPSON produces the WALLET.

THOMSON  
A wallet with your name and address.

SILK  
(dazed)  
That's my wallet.

THOMPSON  
It's obviously stolen from you.

SILK  
No, no! That's my wallet!

THOMSON  
Are you all right, sir?

THOMPSON  
We didn't mean to startle you. Let us help you into your apartment.

INT. SILK'S APARTMENT - DAY

ANGLE ON: The DOOR to SILK'S APARTMENT bursts open, the THOM(P)SONS are framed in the doorway ... a battered and baffled SILK stands between them, attempting to fend them off.

SILK  
(nervous)  
Thank you so much. No need to come in. I'll be quite alright really.

THOMSON  
No, we insist!

THOMPSON  
Better safe than sorry. It's the least we can do.

SILK  
Oh, thank you.

THOMPSON  
There we are.

SILK takes a seat in his ARMCHAIR.

ANGLE ON: A bookshelf packed with HUNDREDS of WALLETS sits in the middle of the room. All of WALLETS are nearly labeled and filed.

The THOM( )PSON's look at it, stunned. SILK looks at them nervously - figuring the game is up!

THOMPSON (CONT'D)  
Good grief, what's all this?

SILK  
It's my... collection.

THOMPSON  
What a lot of wallets.

SILK  
I can't help it... it started with coin purses and sort of went on from there, really...

THOMPSON  
You want to be careful. Haven't you heard? There's a pickpocket about!

THOMSON  
 (looking around the room)  
 Yes, he'd love this - can you  
 imagine?

SILK  
 (offended)  
 What do you mean "pickpocket?"

THOMPSON  
 Oh, a master criminal: a bag-  
 snatching, purse-pilfering, wallet-  
 lifting, sneak thief.

CLOSE ON: SILK's lower lip starts to quiver, his composure  
 goes.

SILK  
 (confessing)  
 I'm not a bad person ... I'm a  
 kleptomaniac.

THOMPSON looks confused.

THOMPSON  
 A what?

THOMSON leans over and whispers.

THOMPSON  
 (whispers)  
 It's a fear of open spaces.

THOMPSON  
 (whispers)  
 Poor man. No wonder he keeps his  
 wallets in the living room.

SILK  
 (rapture)  
 Wallets! I just can't resist the  
 lovely little things. It's a, it's  
 a harmless little habit, really.

THOMPSON takes a WALLET and checks the NAME TAG.

THOMPSON  
 Good heavens! Thomson - look at  
 this! His name's Thompson too!

THOMPSON  
 Oh, what a coincidence!

THOMSON takes another WALLET off the shelf.



THOMSON (CONT'D)

No, Thompson, this is Thomson  
without a 'P' - as in psychic.

THOMPSON

No, no, no, it's Thompson with a  
'P' - as in psychologist.

SILK

Look at this one. A green one that  
I managed to pick from a pickpocket  
actually pickpocketing at the time.  
And this one...

THOMSON

How dare you, sir?

THOMPSON

How dare YOU, sir?

THOMSON

Good heavens, Thomson - you've got  
it all wrong.

THOMSON brandishes a WALLET at THOMPSON. BOTH THOM(P)SONS  
are taking WALLET after WALLET off the shelf, until they have  
an armful each!

THOMPSON

No, you have it all wrong and there  
is a 'P' in psychic.

THOMSON

I'm not your sidekick. You are  
mine.

SILK

Oh, smell it, won't you? Piggy  
leather. Oh, I love piggy leather.

THOMPSON

How dare you?

THOMSON

How dare you? I met you first.

THOMPSON

I met you first.

THOMSON

No, you didn't.

THOMPSON

Yes, I did.

THOMSON  
No, you did not.

THOMPSON  
Yes, I did.

THOMSON  
Didn't!

THOMPSON  
Did!

THOMSON  
Didn't!

SILK is talking to himself while the THOMPSON and THOMSON argue.

SILK  
(breaking down)  
Listen! I can't stand it anymore!  
Alright, I'll come quietly!

SILK begins thrusting WALLETS at the THOM(P)SONS.

SILK (CONT'D)  
(sobbing)  
Take them, take them -

THOMSON  
What are you doing?

SILK  
Take them all!

THOMSON  
Stop it!

THOMPSON  
Pull yourself together, man! We  
can't take your wallets, do we look  
like thieves??

THOMSON  
Good Heavens, Thompson! This looks  
familiar .. it can't be?

THOMPSON looks at THOMSON's wallet as he opens it.

THOMPSON  
It is!

BOTH THOM(P)SONS  
Tintin!

EXT. OCEAN/ROW BOAT - DAY

ANGLE ON: HADDOCK is rowing... cold and exhausted. TINTIN and SNOWY are huddled asleep in the prow of the boat.

HADDOCK  
 (to himself)  
 Oh, so cold! And thirsty! My throat  
 is parched! Let's see if there's  
 any fresh water...

EXT. OCEAN/ROW BOAT - DAY

HADDOCK leans over to a hatch in the prow, opens it and finds... a BOTTLE of RUM!

HADDOCK  
 (conflicted)  
 Ohhh! What have we here?

EXT. OCEAN/ROW BOAT - DAY

ANGLE ON: A sleeping TINTIN slowly opens his eyes.

HADDOCK  
 Tintin! Tintin! Come and warm  
 yourself, laddy.

ANOTHER ANGLE: On a BLAZING FIRE in the middle of the BOAT. HADDOCK casually warms himself.

TINTIN  
 Captain... ? What have you done?

HADDOCK  
 No need to thank me!

TINTIN  
 (shocked)  
 What?

HADDOCK  
 Well, you looked a little cold. So  
 I lit a wee fire.

TINTIN  
 In a boat? No, those are our oars!  
 We need those oars!

HADDOCK  
 Yes, but not for much longer!

TINTIN  
Have you gone mad?

ANGLE ON: TINTIN leans over the side of the boat and begins to scoop water in his hands, trying to put out the flames.

TINTIN (CONT'D)  
Quick, Captain! Help me! Captain,  
help me quick!

HADDOCK  
He's right! What have I done? What  
have I done?

HADDOCK picks up the BOTTLE which is still half full of alcohol. HADDOCK upturns the bottle on the flames which shoot up -

TINTIN  
No, Captain - not that!

ANGLE ON: The BOAT, off in the distance, erupts into FLAMES.

HADDOCK  
Thundering typhoons!

ANGLE ON: TINTIN and HADDOCK are sitting on the upturned boat. A small hole in the boat and glowing embers sit between them.

TINTIN  
Well, this is a fine mess.

HADDOCK  
I'm weak...

TINTIN  
We're stranded here...

HADDOCK  
Selfish...

TINTIN  
With no hope of rescue.

HADDOCK  
Hopeless!

TINTIN  
While Sakharine and his men are  
halfway to Bagghar.

HADDOCK  
Poor, miserable wretch!

TINTIN finally turns to HADDOCK.

TINTIN  
Yes, all right! That's enough of that.

HADDOCK  
It was his fault, you see. It was Sir Francis!

TINTIN  
Tell me, how do you work that one out?

HADDOCK  
Because he was a figurehead of great courage and bold exploits! No one like him has ever existed in my family! Why do you think I drink? It's because I know I'll never be like him! No, it's far better that I end it now and put us both out of our misery.

He shakes TINTIN's hand as SNOWY whines; he attracts TINTIN'S ATTENTION to a DISTANT SPECK in the sky.

TINTIN  
What is it, Snowy?

ANGLE ON: An approaching AIRPLANE ... TINTIN's concerned.

HADDOCK  
I'm going to lower myself into the sea... into the cold embrace into the big blue.

The SEAPLANE has spotted the upturned boat... it starts to turn towards them.

TINTIN  
Those are Portuguese markings.

He turns to HADDOCK.

HADDOCK  
Are you even listening?

TINTIN  
Where is the Karaboudjan registered?

CLOSE ON: HADDOCK spots the AIRPLANE ... he leaps onto the hull of the upturned boat and starts waving and jumping alarmingly!

HADDOCK  
We're saved! We're saved!!! Oh,  
it's a sign from above!!!

SUDDENLY! MACHINE GUN FIRE spits from the SEAPLANE, as it zooms low over TINTIN and HADDOCK, STRAFING THEM! TINTIN and HADDOCK nearly fall into the WATER as BULLETS shred the HULL.

HE STANDS UP AGAIN.

ANGLE ON: The SEAPLANE turns for another ATTACK RUN ... HADDOCK is standing on the HULL, clenching his FISTS, as if BOXING with air. The UPTURNED BOAT rocks like crazy.

HADDOCK (CONT'D)  
Troglodytes!

TINTIN  
Captain, get down!

HADDOCK  
(yelling)  
*Slave traders! Mutant malingerers!  
Freshwater politicians!!*

ANGLE ON: The SEAPLANE starts its attack run.

TINTIN produces his PISTOL, checks the CLIP.

TINTIN  
Bad news, Captain - we've only got  
one bullet!

HADDOCK  
(aghast)  
What's the good news?

TINTIN  
We've got one bullet.

ANGLE ON: TINTIN holds his ground as BULLETS ZING around him..

TINTIN aims, using BOTH HANDS to steady his PISTOL.

BANG! He fires! The SEAPLANE roars low over their HEADS ...

HADDOCK falls into the OCEAN.

ANGLE ON: Black SMOKE spews out of the SEAPLANE'S ENGINE! The SEAPLANE loses power and is forced to LAND.

HADDOCK  
 (joyous)  
 You got him!

EXT. SEA PLANE/OCEAN - CONTINUOUS

HADDOCK  
 Ah! Well done, my boy.

TINTIN and SNOWY jump into the water.

EXT. SEA PLANE/OCEAN - DAY

ANGLE ON: The PLANE bobs uselessly on the water. TWO PILOTS jump out onto the FLOATS before it comes to a stop. They move to the engine and open the hood. As a huge cloud of smoke comes out, the pilot quickly checks under the cowling.

EXT. OCEAN/ROW BOAT - DAY

TINTIN and HADDOCK hide on the far side of the overturned ROWBOAT.

TINTIN  
 Stay here, Captain.

TINTIN dives under the water.

HADDOCK  
 Tintin! Tintin!

EXT. SEA PLANE/OCEAN - DAY

The PILOT continues to inspect the PLANE.

PILOT #1  
 Don't take your eyes off of them!

PILOT #2  
 Hurry up!

PILOT #1  
 Just as I thought, the ignition  
 lead has been cut! Ah! Lucky shot.

EXT. SEAPLANE/OCEAN - DAY

TINTIN'S COIF cuts through the water like a SHARK'S FIN.

PILOT #2

One more pass and we will finish  
them off.

Suddenly, TINTIN surfaces at the end of the FLOAT... PISTOL  
aimed straight at the PILOTS!

TINTIN

Put your hands in the air!

THE PILOTS stare at TINTIN, amazed.

TINTIN (CONT'D)

Now!

INT. SEA PLANE - MOMENTS LATER

TINTIN reads through the FLIGHT INSTRUCTION MANUAL. HADDOCK  
sits behind him. The PILOTS are tied up in the back of the  
plane.

HADDOCK

(worried)  
You, you do know what your doing,  
eh, Tintin?

TINTIN

Um, more or less.

TINTIN flicks a switch. The plane GRUMBLES into life.

HADDOCK

Well, which is it? More or less?

The PLANE taxis along the WATER.

TINTIN

Relax! I interviewed a pilot once.

EXT. SEAPLANE/SKY -DAY

The SEAPLANE rises into the SKY.

TINTIN

Which way to North Africa?

The SEAPLANE SOARS through the sky, several hundred feet  
above the WAVES.



ANGLE ON: A DARK SPECK below them... TINTIN swoops down for a CLOSER LOOK: the KARABOUDJAN! It's ploughing towards BAGGHAR at high speed.

TINTIN (CONT'D)  
 Captain! Look! We've caught up with them!

HADDOCK  
 Wonderful! But do you think we might find another way to North Africa that doesn't take us through that Wall of Death?

EXT./INT. SEAPLANE IN STORM - DAY

ANGLE ON: The SEAPLANE is flying DIRECTLY towards a TOWERING WALL of brewing BLACK CLOUD, RAIN SQUALL and HIGH WIND.

TINTIN  
 We can't turn back - not now!  
 (to himself)  
 Not now.

The SEAPLANE starts to buck and shake in the GATHERING STORM.

ANGLE ON: The TINY PLANE is tossed around as the STORM rages around it. Lightening forks FLASH frighteningly close. The SEAPLANE PITCHES and ROLLS alarmingly.

HADDOCK spots MEDICINAL SPIRITS and quietly reaches for the BOTTLE. TINTIN spots him and swats his hand away.

TINTIN (CONT'D)  
 No, Captain! Those a surgical spirits for medicinal purposes only.

HADDOCK  
 Quiet right, laddy, quiet right.

The STORM outside worsens, and the PLANE does a BARREL ROLL. Once TINTIN rights the PLANE, HADDOCK makes another grab for the SPIRITS. He unscrews the CAP as the PLANE goes into a DIVE. The PILOTS float off the floor of the COCKPIT and the ALCOHOL emerges in the form of large GLOBULES that hover in front of HADDOCK's face.

SNOWY floats into view and SLURPS up the ALCOHOL! TINTIN pulls the PLANE out of the dive at the last moment and SNOWY crashes to the FLOOR and BURPS.

The PLANE goes into another dive and more alcohol emerges from the BOTTLE. HADDOCK grabs SNOWY'S TONGUE and sucks it down as quick as he can.

TINTIN steadies the PLANE again and the PILOTS are knocked out by the return of gravity. The propellor comes to a stop.

TINTIN

No, no, no!

A RED LIGHT FLASHES next to the FUEL GAUGE.

TINTIN (CONT'D)

Fuel tank! It's almost empty.  
Captain! This may sound crazy but I've got a plan. The alcohol in that bottle may give us a few more miles. I need you to climb out of the plane and pour it into the fuel tank.

HADDOCK

Christopher Columbus!

HADDOCK buckles the belt on his PARACHUTE.

HADDOCK opens the door for a moment. He quickly pulls it shut.

HADDOCK (CONT'D)

(defiantly)

There's a terrible storm out there!  
And it's raining!

TINTIN

And you call yourself a Haddock?

HADDOCK glowers, getting his nerve before again opening the door. He immediately falls out of view.

TINTIN (CONT'D)

Captain! Captain! Can you hear me?  
Captain! Captain!

HADDOCK'S head slowly appears in TINTIN'S window.

TINTIN (CONT'D)

You're doing fine! Now, pour the bottle into the tank. We're running on fumes!

HADDOCK has an idea.

HADDOCK

Fumes!

HADDOCK straddles the plane and opens the FUEL CAP. Inside the cockpit, the empty ALCOHOL BOTTLE hits TINTIN'S foot.

TINTIN

Oh, no.

HADDOCK takes a big breath and releases an ENORMOUS BELCH into the TANK. Inside the ENGINE, PISTONS fire manically and FLAMES shoot out from the propellor as it spins again.

HADDOCK sits up and block the WINDSHIELD.

TINTIN (CONT'D)

Captain! I can't see!

HADDOCK sees something and POINTS.

HADDOCK

Land, land!!!

TINTIN

We can't! We're not there yet!

HADDOCK

No, LAND!!!

Suddenly, a SAND DUNE appears and the PLANE is headed straight for it!

HADDOCK (CONT'D)

Turn!!

TINTIN does his best to avoid a the DUNE. The plane pitches wildly back and forth.

The PILOTS have regained consciousness in the back and shake their heads.

HADDOCK (CONT'D)

Starboard! Starboard! Starboard!!

TINTIN swerves the PLANE again. The PILOTS have freed themselves from their BINDINGS.

Still on the nose of the PLANE, HADDOCK is struck by LIGHTNING, YELLS and flips over the PLANE as his PARACHUTE deploys! He grabs the RUDDER before being pulled into the air, SCREAMING. The PILOTS exit the plane door, deploying their own chutes and drifting into the desert.

The PLANE hits a dune, catches fire and comes to a stop. TINTIN is thrown through the WINDSHIELD and slides down the nose of the plane, towards the spinning PROPELLER.

HADDOCK (CONT'D)

Hang on, Tintin! I'm coming!!

SNOWY tries to pull him to safety, but his QUIFF is trimmed by the ROTORS.

HADDOCK reaches the PLANE and pulls TINTIN to SAFETY, before his CHUTE is pulled into the PROPELLER and he is thrown into the SAND. SNOWY faints as TINTIN gradually regains consciousness.

EXT. DESERT - DAY

LATER... THE ICONIC SHOT

WIDE ON: SUN BLAZES DOWN mercilessly, as TINTIN, HADDOCK and SNOWY trudge through the SEA OF SAND, KNOTTED HANDKERCHIEFS on their HEADS. TINTIN is deep in thought. HADDOCK is deep in gloom.

HADDOCK

The Land of Thirst... the Land of Thirst! The Land of Thirst!

TINTIN

Will you stop saying that!

HADDOCK

(gasping)

You don't understand. I've run out, I've run out.

ANGLE ON: HADDOCK gets on his knees.

HADDOCK (CONT'D)

You don't know what that means.

HADDOCK is in bad shape... TINTIN supports him.

TINTIN

Captain, we have to keep going. One step at a time. Come on, on your feet. Lean your weight on me.

HADDOCK

A man can only hang on for so long without his vitals.

TINTIN  
 Captain, calm down - there are  
 worse things than sobering up.

ANGLE ON: HADDOCK suddenly freezes - he is staring into the  
 distance.

HADDOCK  
 (excited)  
 Look, Tintin! We're saved! Water!  
 Water!

ANGLE ON: HADDOCK breaks into a run... SNOWY tries to stop  
 him by BITING his dangling SUSPENDERS. They snap back into  
 SNOWY'S FACE!

TINTIN  
 Stop, Captain! It's just a mirage!

ANGLE ON: HADDOCK stumbles forward, ending up DAZED and  
 CONFUSED, looking around the ROLLING SAND DUNES.

HADDOCK  
 (confused)  
 But it was here... I saw it...

TINTIN  
 It was just your mind playing  
 tricks... it's the heat.

CLOSE ON: HADDOCK, as his EYES fill with EMOTION.

HADDOCK  
 I have to go home.

TINTIN  
 What... ?

HADDOCK  
 I have to go back to the sea.

TINTIN  
 Captain, you're hallucinating!

HADDOCK points towards a dune.

HADDOCK  
 Look, did you ever see a more  
 beautiful sight?

TINTIN looks towards the dune: nothing but rolling hills of  
 blistering sand.

HADDOCK (CONT'D)  
 (awestruck)  
 She's turning into the wind, all  
 sails set!

HADDOCK starts to get up.

HADDOCK (CONT'D)  
 Triple-masted, double decks, fifty  
 guns...

CLOSE ON: TINTIN stops in his tracks...

TINTIN  
 (softly)  
 The Unicorn?

HADDOCK  
 Isn't she a beauty?

TINTIN  
 (encouraging)  
 Yes, yes she is! Tell me, Captain -  
 what else can you see?

HADDOCK  
 She's got the wind behind her! Look  
 at the pace she's setting! Barely a  
 day out of Barbados, a hold full of  
 rum and the finest tobacco and the  
 hearts of the sailors set for home!

ANGLE ON : HADDOCK'S POV... three masts in full sail, flying  
 the KING'S ENSIGN, slides into view in the DESERT - the SHIP  
 at first hidden by a HIGH SAND DUNE.

TRANSITION: HADDOCK stumbles towards the SAILS and MUSIC  
 SWELLS as a desert DUST CLOUD becomes SEA SPRAY, suddenly the  
 SAND is replaced by OCEAN, and we SWEEP towards the MAJESTIC  
 SIGHT of the UNICORN in FULL SAIL!

EXT. OCEAN/THE UNICORN - STORMY DAY

ANGLE ON: The UNICORN smashes into HIGH WAVES. Towering STORM  
 CLOUDS reach into the SKY.

ANGLE ON: SIR FRANCIS HADDOCK, the splitting image of the  
 HADDOCK we know, resplendent in his purple velvet naval  
 uniform, and flamboyant feathered HAT! He is watching the  
 OTHER SHIP through his TELESCOPE. It's a SMALL FRIGATE.

TELESCOPE POV: The SKULL AND CROSS BONES FLAG unfurls in the  
 STRONG WIND. A small RED PENNANT flies below it.

SIR FRANCIS  
The red pennant ...

TRANSITION: SIR FRANCIS'S proud face dissolves into that of his descendant, a more fearful captain.

EXT. DESERT - DAY

HADDOCK turns to face TINTIN.

HADDOCK (O.S.)  
The blood runs cold of every sea  
captain who looks upon that flag,  
for he knows he's facing a fight to  
the death. But Sir Francis is a  
Haddock, and Haddock's don't flee.

TRANSITION: He holds up the empty bottle as a spyglass; the camera pushes into the bottle and a reflection of the Unicorn, that becomes the ship itself. We zoom in to pick up SIR FRANCIS preparing the crew.

EXT. OCEAN/THE UNICORN - STORMY DAY

SIR FRANCIS stares at the PIRATE SHIP.

SIR FRANCIS  
(yelling)  
All hands on deck! Gunners to their  
stations! Let's unload the King's  
shot into these yellow-bellied,  
lily livered, sea slugs!  
(to his FIRST MATE)  
Prepare to bring her about, Mr.  
Nichols!

FIRST MATE  
Aye, aye Captain! Prepare to bring  
her about!

ANGLE ON: The UNICORN SMASHES into a VAST WAVE, which BREAKS across her bow. The PIRATE SHIP crests a wave just behind them.

EXT. OCEAN/THE UNICORN - STORMY DAY

The CREWS of the UNICORN and PIRATE SHIP trade CANNON FIRE. A hole is blown in the SAIL of the UNICORN.

The two SHIPS crash through the waves side-by-side, CANNONS firing a wild volley between them.

CANNONBALLS tear into the SAILS of the UNICORN as the JOLLY ROGER pulls closer. THE MASTS of the two SHIPS become entwined.

SIR FRANCIS  
Mr. Nichols, secure the cargo!  
(to the crew)  
Prepare to repel all boarders!

The keel of the PIRATE SHIP skims the DECK of the UNICORN.

PIRATES pour onto the deck of the UNICORN. A violent fight ensues.

PIRATE  
This way, we need more men!

SIR FRANCIS looks up and sees PIRATES crossing from one mast to the other. SIR FRANCIS climbs the mast and the ships apart. The pirate ship sinks and SIR FRANCIS uses the rigging as a ZIP LINE back to the deck.

As SIR FRANCIS battles wave after wave of PIRATES, a CLOAKED FIGURE, silhouetted by fire and smoke, approaches him.

EXT. DESERT - DAY

TRANSITION: The silhouette of RED RACKHAM turns into the shadow of CAPTAIN HADDOCK in the desert.

HADDOCK  
And then he saw him, like a  
phantom, rising from the dead.

TINTIN  
(captivated)  
Who?

CLOSE ON: HADDOCK, parched. Thick grime cakes his lips, sweat runs down his face... he struggles to maintain focus.

TINTIN (CONT'D)  
Captain? Captain, who did he see?

WIDE ON: HADDOCK and TINTIN standing in the desert, surrounded by endless sand. The silence is odd, after the mayhem of battle.

HADDOCK  
(bewildered)  
It's gone...



TINTIN

What do you mean gone? What happened next?!

HADDOCK is becoming CONFUSED, struggling to remember.

HADDOCK

By Jupiter, I have a beard! Since when did I have a beard?!

TINTIN

Captain, something happened on the Unicorn! It's the key to everything! You must try to remember!

HADDOCK

The Unicorn? What? I'm so terribly thirsty.

HADDOCK sways on his feet.

TINTIN

(alarmed)  
Captain!

HADDOCK

(fearful)  
Tintin... What is happening to me?

CLOSE ON: TINTIN catches HADDOCK as he falls forward, then lowers him to the ground.

TINTIN

And to think all it took was a day in the Sahara. Congratulations, Captain. You're sober.

HADDOCK

Sober...

HADDOCK passes out.

WIDE ON: The solitary figure of TINTIN holding the inert body of HADDOCK in his arms... against the vast backdrop of the SAHARA as the huge ORANGE SUN sinks below the HORIZON.

EXT. DESERT STORM - NIGHT

QUICK IMAGES: The swirling sand glows in the FULL MOON.

SNOWY yowls in a plaintive call.

Looming SHAPES approach, carrying LANTERNS and FLASHLIGHTS, GLOWING EERILY, and CASTING DANCING SHADOWS into the SWIRLING SAND.

THEY SEE the BODIES of TINTIN, and HADDOCK almost covered beneath drifts of SAND. A dashing LIEUTENANT DELCOURT leans over the body of TINTIN.

DELCOURT

Good dog! This one's alive! Check the other!

AFGHAR OUTPOST SOLDIER

Yes sir!

The other SOLDIER inspects HADDOCK.

EXT. AFGHAR OUTPOST COURTYARD - DAY

A COLONIAL FOREIGN LEGION FORT. TINTIN and SNOWY are led by a prim, proper, pipe-smoking BRITISH OFFICER, DELCOURT.

DELCOURT

Lieutenant Delcourt, welcome to the Afghar Outpost.

TINTIN

Thank you, Lieutenant. We owe you our lives. Did you find my friend?

DELCOURT

Yes, but he's not in good shape, I'm afraid. He's still suffering the effects of acute dehydration. He's quite delirious. Why don't we pay him a visit?

INT. AFGHAR OUTPOST INFIRMARY - DAY

ANGLE ON: DELCOURT opens a DOOR to reveal a makeshift infirmary.

HADDOCK turns towards them as they enter the room.

DELCOURT

Ah, Haddock - you're awake, good. I have a visitor for you.

DELCOURT steps back to reveal TINTIN.

TINTIN

Captain...

HADDOCK turns to greet his GUEST ... NO SIGN of recognition.

HADDOCK

Hello! I think you've got the wrong room.

TINTIN

Captain? It's Tintin. Our plane crashed in the desert, don't you remember?

HADDOCK

Plane? No, no, I'm a naval man, myself. I never fly if I can help it. He's got me confused with someone else.

(looks at the glass he is holding )

What is this peculiar liquid? There's no bouquet, it's completely transparent.

DELCOURT

Why, it's water.

HADDOCK

What will they think of next?

DELCOURT

Well, we suspect he has a concussion, heatstroke, delirium.

SNOWY goes to the table next to the door, he grabs a BOTTLE of "MEDICINE".

CLOSE ON: The "MEDICINE" is a BOTTLE of WHISKEY!!!!

TINTIN

He's sober.

TINTIN takes the water glass and hands it to DELCOURT. TINTIN is focused on HADDOCK.

TINTIN (CONT'D)

Now Captain, out in the desert.

HADDOCK

The desert?

SNOWY walks back and sets the bottle on the side table next to HADDOCK.

TINTIN  
Yes, you were talking about Sir  
Francis.

He sits.

HADDOCK  
Sir who?

TINTIN  
Sir Francis, and you were telling  
me about what happened on the  
Unicorn.

HADDOCK  
The Unicorn?

TINTIN  
Yes.

HADDOCK  
The stuff that dreams are made of,  
wee children's dreams.

TINTIN  
No, the ship! Oh, please try to  
remember, Captain. Lives are at  
risk.

HADDOCK reaches for the glass, SNOWY pushes the bottle in  
place, HADDOCK grabs the bottle and drinks the WHISKEY in one  
gulp!

TINTIN looks back in horror.

TINTIN (CONT'D)  
Snowy! What have you done?

HADDOCK  
Ahhhhhh!

TINTIN turns to DELCOURT and the SOLDIERS.

TINTIN  
I'd stand back if I were you.

HADDOCK starts to get louder.

TINTIN (CONT'D)  
(urgent)  
Out! Everybody out of the room!!!!

They all run out; TINTIN grabs SNOWY and closes the door!

TRANSITION: HADDOCK jumps at the DOOR, sending splinters in all directions.

INT. AFGHAR OUTPOST STORE ROOM - DAY

HADDOCK runs along a wall, LUNGING with his SWORD!

HADDOCK  
Show yourself, Red Rackham!

EXT. OCEAN/THE UNICORN - STORMY DAY

RED RACKHAM steps out of the shadows and into the light. SIR FRANCIS sees him, runs forward to engage but is intercepted by two PIRATES.

TRANSITION: The two PIRATES become TINTIN and DELCOURT, circling HADDOCK.

INT. AFGHAR OUTPOST OFFICE - DAY

ANGLE ON: HADDOCK leaps on a TABLE, facing off against the INVISIBLE FOE he sees in his MIND'S EYE.

HADDOCK  
(roaring)  
If it's a fight you want - you've met your match!

TINTIN  
A fight with who?

TINTIN looks on, SNOWY safely with him.

HADDOCK  
(charging)  
To the death...

EXT. OCEAN/THE UNICORN - STORMY DAY

SIR FRANCIS  
RED RACKHAM!

ANGLE ON: RED RACKHAM side-steps SIR FRANCIS, takes off his CAPE and throws it over SIR FRANCIS. He swings SIR FRANCIS around, sending him crashing into crates and barrels. A falling piece of the mast turns into a WOODEN CEILING FAN.

INT. AFGHAR OUTPOST OFFICE - DAY

ANGLE ON: A HEAVY WOODEN CEILING FAN crashes down on HADDOCK'S HEAD, knocking him SENSELESS!

TRANSITION: SOLDIERS run into the office. TINTIN stops them. We swirl around to see the oncoming GUARDS become PIRATES.

EXT. OCEAN/THE UNICORN - STORMY DAY

SWORDS surround SIR FRANCIS, who lies on the deck.

INT. AFGHAR OUTPOST OFFICE - DAY

TINTIN crouches down beside HADDOCK.

TINTIN  
(concerned)  
Captain?

ANGLE ON: HADDOCK sits up, ashen-faced... a desolate light in his eyes. TINTIN takes his sword and hands it to DELCOURT.

HADDOCK  
(quiet, reverie)  
I remember everything now.  
Everything Granddaddy told me. The Unicorn was taken. The pirates were now the masters of the ship.

TINTIN  
The crew surrendered?

HADDOCK  
Granddaddy said that Red Rackham called Sir Francis the King's dog - a pirate hunter sent to reclaim their hard won plunder.

EXT. THE UNICORN - NIGHT

SIR FRANCIS is lashed to the MAST by RED RACKHAM'S MEN.

RED RACKHAM  
Why would I waste my time on rum, tobacco, molasses, and dates when you have a more valuable cargo on board? Where is it?

SIR FRANCIS  
You'll have to kill me first.

RED RACKHAM  
 (smiling evilly)  
 Not first, no. I will start with  
 your men.

TRANSITION: RED RACKHAM raises his sword. We push past to SIR FRANCIS on the MAST. TINTIN steps behind the MAST and we transition back to the OUTPOST with the CAPTAIN standing by his CHAIR.

INT. AFGHAR OUTPOST OFFICE - DAY

HADDOCK is back on his feet; he moves around the room and TINTIN follows.

HADDOCK  
 To save his men, he would give up  
 the secret cargo.

TINTIN  
 And where was it?

TRANSITION: HADDOCK walks to the BOOKSHELF and slowly removes one, as though he is pulling a LEVER.

INT. UNICORN/BELOW DECKS - NIGHT

SIR FRANCIS pulls a LEVER disguised as BOOK that reveals a HIDDEN COMPARTMENT on the SHIP. RED RACKHAM makes his way down a RAMP into the COMPARTMENT. A MOUNTAIN OF TREASURE fills the COMPARTMENT.

HADDOCK (V.O.)  
 400 weight of gold, jewels, and  
 treasure.

We are behind RACKHAM, who steps in the middle of it and lifts the mask off his face to get a better look, although we do not see his face. Slowly lowering the mask, he turns, gesturing with his sword top side.

RED RACKHAM  
 Kill his men!

SIR FRANCIS  
 No, Rackham, no!!!

EXT. UNICORN/ABOVE DECK - NIGHT

FLASHBACK: SIR FRANCIS' MEN being shoved off planks, falling overboard and being swarmed by SHARKS.

SIR FRANCIS

Rackham, you gave me your word!  
Rackham! Rackham!!

TRANSITION: CAPTAIN HADDOCK'S FACE is in each of the bubbles underwater. All of the bubbles come together to form one big bubble which pops us back into the present, as TINTIN holds HADDOCK.

INT. AFGHAR OUTPOST OFFICE - DAY

HADDOCK

Sir Francis knew he was doomed,  
that he'd be hung from the highest  
yardarm but they didn't reckon on  
one thing. Sir Francis was a  
Haddock and a Haddock always has a  
trick up his sleeve.

HADDOCK moves around the table, looking at everyone,  
delusional, until he spots a QUILL in an INK WELL. He turns  
it over, looking at the POINT.

TRANSITION: Moving into the QUILL, the image dissolves into  
the QUILL on SIR FRANCIS'S HAT ...

EXT. THE UNICORN - NIGHT

ANGLE ON: SIR FRANCIS, is lashed to the main mast. Slumped on  
the deck around him are sleeping, drunken PIRATES...

He FLIPS off his HAT, catches it in his teeth, shakes it. A  
FEATHER in the band falls out, a sharp BLADE glinting on the  
end. He catches it and begins to CUT HIS BINDINGS.

INT. AFGHAR OUTPOST OFFICE - DAY

HADDOCK

And with that, he hurls himself  
forward!

TINTIN

On the pirates? Like that? Unarmed?

HADDOCK

No, no, on a bottle of rum rolling  
on the deck. And he opens it up  
and puts it to his lips, and ...

TINTIN puts his hands on the BOTTLE and takes it away from  
HADDOCK.



TINTIN

And then he stops. 'This is not time for drinking,' he says. I need all my wits about me. With that, he puts down the bottle and -

HADDOCK

(dismissively)

Yes, yes, he puts down the bottle and he seizes a cutlass!

HADDOCK picks up a SWORD and swings wildly!

INT. THE UNICORN/BELOW DECKS - NIGHT

SIR FRANCIS sneaks below decks, wielding his CUTLASS.

HADDOCK (O.S.)

And then he makes his way to the ship's magazine where they keep all the gunpowder and the shot!

He lays a trail of gunpowder up a flight of stairs and right from the gunpowder; on deck, RED RACKHAM'S SWORD comes into the foreground and SIR FRANCIS turns.

EXT. THE UNICORN DECK - NIGHT

RED RACKHAM

You dog... you'd blow us sky high!

SIR FRANCIS

Come on, then. Let's have you.

SIR FRANCIS and RED RACKHAM clash SWORDS in a FURIOUS DUEL.

SIR FRANCIS cuts a ROPE, and sends a BURNING LANTERN smashing onto the DECK... it instantly IGNITES the GUNPOWDER TRAIL!

RED RACKHAM

Not this time!

RED RACKHAM STAMPS the FIZZING FUSE out, but SIR FRANCIS fends him away with a FLURRY of SWORD BLOWS and kicks the LANTERN back into the trail of GUNPOWDER!

INT. THE UNICORN GUN DECK - NIGHT

ANGLE ON: As they continue the fight, RACKHAM heads down the stairs to the GUN DECK.

The FUSE BURNS as RACKHAM shoves a DRUNKEN PIRATE and sweeps away the GUNPOWDER with his FOOT. SIR FRANCIS knocks over a LANTERN and relights the FUSE!

The FIGHT continues as SIR FRANCIS and RACKHAM moves to the stairs. The FUSE is continually swept away and more lanterns are dropped to the floor!

ANGLE ON: SIR FRANCIS gains the upper hand... RED RACKHAM becomes DESPERATE... with backward stab of his CUTLASS, SIR FRANCIS wounds RED RACKHAM! He DROPS his SWORD, clutches a MAST to steady himself.

SIR FRANCIS slashes at RED RACKHAM'S HEAD, perfectly slicing the SILK SCARF... it flutters away, revealing RED RACKHAM'S FACE!

CLOSE ON: A long, DEEP SCAR runs from his right cheekbone to the corner of his lips, causing his mouth to twist in a slightly deformed manner... nevertheless, his face is UNMISTAKABLE!

He is the splitting image of SAKHARINE!

INT. AFGHAR OUTPOST OFFICE - DAY

TINTIN is sitting on the floor by the desk. HADDOCK points the SWORD at him.

HADDOCK

You!

CLOSE ON: HADDOCK frozen in SHOCK! STANDING, STARING at somebody.

TINTIN

(puzzled)

Captain? What is it?

THE CAMERA PUSHES IN on HADDOCK's ashen face ...

HADDOCK

How could I be so blind?

TINTIN gets up.

TINTIN

(concerned)

What are you talking about?

HADDOCK  
 This isn't just about the scrolls  
 or the treasure that went down with  
 the ship. It's me! It's me he's  
 after!

EXT. THE UNICORN DECK - NIGHT

The FUSE continues to BURN towards BARRELS OF GUNPOWDER.

RED RACKHAM  
 (quiet hate)  
 You'll suffer a curse upon you and  
 your name, Haddock.

INT. AFGHAR OUTPOST OFFICE - DAY

HADDOCK paces the room.

HADDOCK  
 He wants vengeance.

EXT. THE UNICORN DECK - NIGHT

SIR FRANCIS turns and walks to the PORTHOLE and RED RACKHAM  
 whips his SWORD into the hull.

RED RACKHAM  
 (yelling)  
 Come back and face me!

INT. AFGHAR OUTPOST OFFICE - DAY

ANGLE ON: HADDOCK backs across the ROOM, a look of alarm on  
 his face!

HADDOCK  
 Hurry, Tintin!!!

HADDOCK leaps towards TINTIN, grabbing his arm!

HADDOCK (CONT'D)  
 (urgent)  
 We're out of time!

TINTIN  
 (alarmed)  
 Captain...!

ANGLE ON: HADDOCK races for the WINDOW, dragging TINTIN with him!

EXT. THE UNICORN - NIGHT

SIR FRANCIS jumps out of the CANNON HOLE into the water!

EXT. AFGHAR OUTPOST COURTYARD - DAY

ANGLE ON: HADDOCK and TINTIN come flying out of the SECOND FLOOR WINDOW in a shower of BROKEN GLASS. They LAND on a wooden cart filled with HAY near the STABLES.

INT. THE UNICORN - LOWER DECK - NIGHT

The FUSE arrives at the GUNPOWDER BARREL!

EXT. THE UNICORN/UNDERWATER - NIGHT

ANGLE ON: Looking up through the water as SIR FRANCIS lands in the FOREGROUND. At that moment, the dark hulk of the UNICORN erupts into FLAMING FRAGMENTS!

WIDE ON: The UNICORN and all on board are blasted to pieces... DEBRIS flies in all directions.

ANGLE ON: SIR FRANCIS surfaces amongst the BURNING FRAGMENTS of his SHIP. He is almost hit by the FALLING MAST, then climbs onto it. He holds out his HAT to protect himself as TREASURE RAINS DOWN, filling it to the brim.

The UNICORN quickly takes on water. SIR FRANCIS swims away as RACKHAM, trapped in the sinking ship, curses HADDOCK'S NAME.

RED RACKHAM

I curse you - I curse your name and  
all who come after! We will meet  
again Haddock! In another time!!  
In another life!!

SIR FRANCIS sits on the MAST as another explosion rocks the UNICORN. Treasure flies into the air and rains down onto SIR FRANCIS, some landing in his HAT. The SHIP sinks below the waves.

EXT. AFGHAR OUTPOST COURTYARD - DAY

TRANSITION: HADDOCK and TINTIN surface from the HAY PILE.

HADDOCK  
(softly)  
It's not over. It was never over!

TINTIN  
I don't understand. Who's after  
your blood!

HADDOCK  
Sakharine!

TINTIN  
(shocked)  
Sakharine. Why?

HADDOCK is staring into the distance.

HADDOCK  
He's Red Rackham's descendant.  
He means to finish it!

TINTIN digests this information.

TINTIN  
That's why he did it.

HADDOCK  
Did what?

TINTIN  
Sank his own ship! Sir Francis sent  
that treasure to the bottom of the  
sea. He would be damned before he  
let Red Rackham have it.

HADDOCK  
And he was.

TINTIN  
But he couldn't let it lie.

HADDOCK  
No!

TINTIN  
He left a clue! Three clues wrapped  
in a riddle, concealing a secret.  
But only a true Haddock will be  
able to solve it.

HADDOCK  
What secret?

TINTIN

The location to one of the greatest  
sunken treasures in all history.

HADDOCK

(realizing)

The wreck of the Unicorn. He means  
to steal it. The third scroll!  
Billions of blue-blistering  
barnacles, I swear, as the last of  
the Haddocks, *I'll find that  
treasure before him!*

TINTIN

To Bagghar.

HADDOCK spits on his hand.

HADDOCK

To Bagghar!

They shake on it.

TRANSITION: The HANDS turn into SAND DUNES...

EXT. WELLS OF KEFHEIR - DAY

ANGLE ON: TINTIN, SNOWY and HADDOCK are RIDING CAMELS. As the  
crest a SAND DUNE, BAGGHAR is revealed below them. The  
KARABOUDJAN is heading into PORT. TINTIN points to the  
KARABOUDJAN.

TINTIN

He's here.

EXT. BAGGHAR STREETS AND ALLEYS - DAY

ANGLES ON: Rushing through the narrow streets of BAGGHAR,  
TINTIN, SNOWY and HADDOCK look for SAKHARINE and his men.

The CROWDED STREETS are full of ARABS and BERBERS, many with  
HOODS and SCARFS covering their FACES.

TWO MYSTERIOUS HOODED FIGURES come out and follow them.

EXT. BAGGHAR SQUARE - DAY

ANGLE ON: HADDOCK and TINTIN walking through a crowded  
MARKETPLACE.

HADDOCK  
It's no good. They could be  
anywhere!

CLOSE ON: TINTIN whispers to HADDOCK.

TINTIN  
(whisper)  
Captain - don't look now, but we're  
being followed.

CLOSE ON: HADDOCK casually glances behind him.

HADDOCK  
(softly)  
Ah, so we are.

ANGLE ON: TINTIN and HADDOCK head toward the PALACE. The same  
two MYSTERIOUS ROBED FIGURES come out of the shadows and  
follow them into a narrow alley.

EXT. BAGGHAR MARKET - DAY

ANGLE ON: Following the TWO HOODED FIGURES... TINTIN and  
HADDOCK'S FEET suddenly stick out from a DOORWAY, tripping  
them up!

One sprawls onto the GROUND, causing the next to topple over  
as well!

TINTIN steps forward, FISTS CLENCHED!

TINTIN  
What do you want? Why are you  
following us?

HADDOCK  
Who are you working for?

HADDOCK jumps on them, grabbing them and smashing them into  
the ground.

ANGLE ON: The THOM(P)SONS look up in confusion! Their hoods  
fall away to reveal the BOWLER HATS on their heads!

TINTIN steps in and pulls HADDOCK off them.

TINTIN  
Captain, stop! Stop!  
Thompson! And ...Thomson!

TINTIN helps the THOM(P)SONS stagger to their feet.

THOMSON  
Not so loud ...

THOMPSON  
We're in disguise.

TINTIN  
So I see - you got the message I  
sent from the ship?

THOMPSON  
Yes, well, bit of a long story,  
that.

THOMSON  
The upshot is - we caught the  
thief, retrieved your wallet, and  
then hopped on the next plane to  
Bagghar.

THOMPSON  
Yes, that pocket picker has picked  
his last pocket.

With a flourish, THOMPSON produces TINTIN'S WALLET.

THOMPSON (CONT'D)  
Don't worry, he didn't take any  
money.

TINTIN  
(tense)  
It's not the money I'm worried  
about.

CLOSE ON: TINTIN walks and turns away. He hurriedly fishes  
into his WALLET and produces the neatly folded SCROLL!

TINTIN (CONT'D)  
The odds are even! Now to find the  
next two scrolls.

EXT. BAGGHAR MARKET - CONTINUOUS

TINTIN's deep in THOUGHT ... He puts his WALLET and the  
SCROLL away.

ANGLE ON: TINTIN slowly lifts his gaze to the OPERA BANNER  
which hangs across the square.

TINTIN  
(quiet realization)  
The Milanese Nightingale.  
(MORE)



TINTIN (CONT'D)  
 (in a soft voice)  
 That's his secret weapon?!

ANGLE ON: Tilting down from BIANCA CASTAFIORE'S PORTRAIT to the slogan written below: *The world-famous "Milanese Nightingale"*! TINTIN, the THOM(P)SONS and HADDOCK stare at the banner.

HADDOCK  
 Ahh! What a dish.

INT. SALAAD PALACE GREAT HALL - DAY

ANGLE ON: PAPARAZZI snapping ... REPORTERS shouting over each other ... BAGGHAR residents yelling for autographs.

CLOSE ON: BIANCA CASTAFIORE is all smiles and poses. She's the very model of bejewelled OPERA STAR.

BIANCA CASTAFIORE titters, delightedly. Her laugh rises to a soprano trill.

ANGLE ON: BEN SALAAD stands before her. He BOWS and KISSES her hand.

BEN SALAAD  
 Enchanted, Signora. *Bienvenuto!*  
*Welcome!* We are blessed with your presence.

CASTAFIORE  
 Yes, indeed Signore Salad.  
 (waving to the crowd)  
 What charming peasants!  
 (turning back to SALAAD)  
 May I introduce my escort, Monsieur Shuggair Addeitiff!

ANGLE ON: From behind BIANCA CASTAFIORE steps SAKHARINE!!! He is dressed in a tuxedo. BIANCA theatrically rests her hand on his arm.

CASTAFIORE (CONT'D)  
 He's been very... passionate in his support of this concert. It's my first visit to the third world.

SAKHARINE  
 Please forgive me, I must escort madame to her dressing room. Excuse us!

SAKHARINE guides BIANCA CASTAFIORE away from BEN SALAAD. BEN SALAAD and his SECRETARY applaud as she goes.

BEN SALAAD  
Bravo!

SECRETARY  
Bravo!

BEN SALAAD  
Bravo!

SECRETARY  
Bravo!

BEN SALAAD  
Bravo!

SAKHARINE  
After you.

His eyes flicking to the UNICORN MODEL as he goes past it.

ANGLE ON: NEV-R-BREAK BULLET PROOF GLASS logo on the display containing the THIRD MODEL UNICORN.

EXT. SALAAD PALACE - DAY

As TINTIN and HADDOCK stand at the entrance of the palace, GUESTS arrive for the opera. PALACE GUARDS watch TINTIN; he makes a decision. He takes out his WALLET, whispers.

TINTIN  
Here, I want you to look after  
this. What are you doing?

TINTIN hands the SECOND SCROLL to a surprised HADDOCK.

HADDOCK  
Me?

TINTIN  
Yes.

HADDOCK  
Are, you sure?

TINTIN  
If I'm caught, I don't want them to  
find this on me. Just keep it  
hidden.

HADDOCK gets down on one knee.

HADDOCK  
I will guard this with my life!

TINTIN  
Get up, get up!

The camera cranes up to reveal the whole of BEN SALAAD'S PALACE.

INT. SALAAD PALACE THEATER - DAY

OPERA-GOERS take their seats as the ORCHESTRA plays. BEN SALAAD sits front and center.

A stir of excitement... BEN SALAAD sits forward eagerly!

ANGLE ON: CASTAFIORE enters with great fanfare. HADDOCK nudges TINTIN, excited.

HADDOCK  
It's her!

Through his opera glasses, TINTIN notices the NEV-R BREAK LOGO on the UNICORN DISPLAY CASE.

She steps to the front of the stage and opens her mouth ... LAUNCHING with great vigor into a well-known aria.

CLOSE ON: HADDOCK as a look of horror crosses his face.

HADDOCK (CONT'D)  
Blistering barnacles, what's that noise! My ears - they're bleeding!

TINTIN  
No, they're not!

HADDOCK hits his head against the chair. SNOWY begins to whine.

TINTIN (CONT'D)  
Shut up, Snowy!

CLOSE ON: CASTAFIORE's hitting high notes, her bosom heaving.

HADDOCK  
Oh, Columbus! It's every man for himself!

HADDOCK suddenly stands pushing past annoyed THEATRE PATRONS.

HADDOCK (CONT'D)  
 Make way, make way! Medical  
 emergency!

HADDOCK staggers for the exit, hands blocking his ears!

HADDOCK reaches the table with the drinks, he grabs the tablecloth and yanks it off. The bottles and glasses don't move. HADDOCK puts the tablecloth around his head, like Lawrence of Arabia.

INT. SALAAD PALACE THEATER LOBBY - DAY

ANGLE ON: HADDOCK hurries into the calm of the lobby. CASTAFIORE's somewhat muted voice can still be heard.

ANGLE ON: HADDOCK takes out a BOTTLE from his jacket.

HADDOCK

Ah ha!

The SECOND SCROLL flutters out ...

CLOSE ON: HADDOCK's hand trying not to loose it. HADDOCK stares at the SCROLL, folding it tightly.

HADDOCK (CONT'D)

That was close!

He decides to put the alcohol bottle down. He starts to walk away...

A HAND GRABS THE BOTTLE. As HADDOCK walks forward, ALLAN steps in front of him!

TOM

(chilling)

Hello, Captain.

HADDOCK looks at him, shocked!

HADDOCK

You!

WHACK! ALLAN brings the BOTTLE of ALCOHOL crashing down on HADDOCK'S HEAD!

INT. SALAAD PALACE THEATER - DAY

The GUARD behind TINTIN moves closer.

ANGLE ON: TINTIN sees movement in the upper balcony... a FIGURE sits back in his SEAT, hidden from view.

CASTAFIORE's reflection appears on his glasses. The FALCON lands on his ARM.

ANGLE ON: TINTIN borrows a pair of OPERA GLASSES lying on a SEAT nearby. He quickly scans for the half-hidden figure in the balcony.

TINTIN POV: A brief glimpse of the FIGURE - it is the SILHOUETTE of SAKHARINE!

CLOSE ON: CASTAFIORE'S FACE straining as her NOTES lift HIGHER and HIGHER!

INT. SALAAD PALACE THEATER - CONTINUOUS

CLOSE ON: TINTIN, as dawning realization crosses his face!

TINTIN

Oh, no.

TINTIN stands and turns to the BALCONY.

TINTIN (CONT'D)

Sakharine!

CLOSE ON: CASTAFIORE continues SINGING to EAR SPLITTING NOTES, eyes squeezed TIGHT!

CRASH! GLASSES and CHAMPAGNE SHATTER! BEN SALAAD's GLASSES BREAK!

SAKHARINE leans into the light and reveals his SMILE.

BIANCA'S VOICE SOARS HIGHER!

ANGLE ON: The UNICORN MODEL. Its GLASS CASE begins breaking, long SPIDERY CRACKS racing across the SURFACE, as if under HUGE PRESSURE.

ANGLE ON: TINTIN suddenly stands -

SMASH!! A GLASS CHANDELIER shatters into TINY PIECES!

CASTAFIORE, still singing, turns towards the BALCONY - raising her arm in a DRAMATIC GESTURE.

CLOSE ON: CASTAFIORE summons a deep breath, OPENS HER MOUTH and hits B FLAT over HIGH C!

The GLASS UNICORN CASE SHATTERS with EXPLOSIVE FORCE! Broken GLASS flies in all directions.

ANGLE ON: BEN SALAAD reacts to the SHATTERING CASE!

SAKHARINE calmly launches his FALCON.

TINTIN (CONT'D)  
(yelling)  
The falcon! Snowy, after it!

At that moment HADDOCK bursts into the THEATRE, waving his arms around madly!

HADDOCK  
(yelling)  
Tintin!

SAKHARINE  
(from the balcony)  
Those two! They're here to steal  
your ship!

BEN SALAAD leaps to his feet, waving his arms at HADDOCK, screaming ORDERS!

TINTIN  
No, no, no, no, no, we're not!

BEN SALAAD  
Arrest him! The ugly one!

TINTIN  
No wait!

HADDOCK  
(pointing to himself)  
Me?

BEN SALAAD  
Yes! Thief! Arrest him!

BEN SALAAD'S SOLDIERS race towards HADDOCK.

CASTAFIORE looks around at the sudden mayhem confused by all the PANIC!

HADDOCK is immediately pounced on by SEVERAL PALACE GUARDS... HADDOCK ROARS, FISTS FLYING, sending GUARDS toppling in all directions.

BEN SALAAD (CONT'D)  
C'est un voleur!

TINTIN hurries towards HADDOCK, keeping his EYES on SAKHARINE in the BALCONY ...

The FALCON soars down over the HEADS of the THEATER-GOERS, flying towards the shattered UNICORN CASE.

ANGLE ON: the FALCON swoops low, landing on the UNICORN MODEL... he picks it up in his talons and flies into the air.

The UNICORN falls.

The UNICORN MODEL topples onto the FLOOR. The MAST BREAKS. WE CAN SEE THE METAL SCROLL CYLINDER

The FALCON swoops down to pick it up.

It's a race between SNOWY AND THE FALCON.

The FALCON snatches up the METAL CYLINDER in his BEAK, and instantly TAKES TO THE AIR, just avoiding the snapping JAWS of SNOWY who has raced towards him!

TINTIN watches helplessly as the FALCON flies back to SAKHARINE, who catches him, and immediately DISAPPEARS. BEN SALAAD SCREAMS order in French.

TINTIN manages to fight his way through to HADDOCK.

MORE PALACE GUARDS close in on TINTIN and HADDOCK! BEN SALAAD is SHOUTING ANGRY ORDERS, completely missing SAKHARINE and the FALCON.

TINTIN and HADDOCK manage to escape.

INT. SALAAD PALACE CORRIDORS - DAY

ANGLE ON: TINTIN and HADDOCK race out of the THEATER!

TINTIN  
Captain, Sakharine's got the  
scroll!

HADDOCK  
It's worse than that!

TINTIN  
(horrified)  
What do you mean?

HADDOCK  
They took your scroll Tintin - it's  
gone!

TINTIN skids to a HALT... approaching SHOUTS...

TINTIN  
How?! What happened?

HADDOCK  
It was Allan, he, he knobbled me in  
the, in the garden. There was a  
bottle of alcohol...

TINTIN cuts him off, disappointment written all over his  
face.

TINTIN  
There always is.

HADDOCK  
No, no. No, not like that -

HADDOCK puts his hands on TINTIN's shoulders.

TINTIN  
I can smell it on you.

TINTIN pushes HADDOCK's hands off, and heads out.

EXT. BELOW DAM, BAGGHAR STREETS - DAY

ANGLE ON: SAKHARINE pulls out the THREE SCROLLS from his  
JACKET POCKET - it is the first time we have seen all three  
together. SAKHARINE'S FALCON sits on the corner of the  
windshield of the JEEP!

SAKHARINE smiles smugly drops the THREE SCROLLS into the  
LEATHER WALLET.

SAKHARINE  
Hurry! Back to the boat!

EXT. SALAAD PALACE - DAY

TINTIN punches a GUARD, who falls to the GROUND.

EXT. SALAAD PALACE - DAY

ANGLE ON: HADDOCK desperately runs out of the palace

HADDOCK  
Tintin!

HADDOCK joins TINTIN...



HADDOCK (CONT'D)  
Where are you going?

TINTIN  
I'm going after Sakharine!

HADDOCK  
By yourself?

TINTIN  
Yes. Come on, Snowy.

HADDOCK considers his options.

He turns back and grabs the GUARD'S WEAPON: a ROCKET LAUNCHER, from the ground.

A GUARD is starting to stand up, as HADDOCK swings the LAUNCHER over his shoulder and turns, he knocks out the GUARD back to the ground.

HADDOCK walks over to the motorcycle, TINTIN kicks in the engine. BEN SALAAD runs out of the palace.

BEN SALAAD  
Get them, get them!

ANGLE ON: TINTIN rockets across the BRIDGE, riding a MOTORCYCLE, with HADDOCK and SNOWY in a SIDECAR.

EXT. BELOW DAM, BAGGHAR STREETS - DAY

TINTIN's reflection is in the rearview mirror of the JEEP. TOM looks back.

ANGLE ON: SAKHARINE glances behind him - his face sets in a HARD MASK when he sees TINTIN.

SAKHARINE  
Lose them! Get him off our tail!

ANGLE ON: ALLAN begins firing on the MOTORCYCLE.

SNOWY hides in the SIDECAR from the gunfire.

HADDOCK swings the ROCKET LAUNCHER onto his SHOULDER ...

HADDOCK squeezes the TRIGGER... BOOM! The ROCKET LAUNCHER fires backward - straight into the DAM CONTROL STATION!

ANGLE ON: HADDOCK looks back, trying to SPOT where the ROCKET HIT... he can see a CLOUD OF SMOKE rising.

TINTIN  
Did you hit anything?

HADDOCK  
Oh, dear.

HADDOCK throws down the ROCKET LAUNCHER.

The WALL of the DAM bursts with a THUNDEROUS BOOM!

ANGLE ON: TINTIN and HADDOCK desperately attempt to outrun the wall of mud in the motorcycle!

EXT. BAGGHAR STREETS, MUD SLIDE - DAY

ANGLE ON: SAKHARINE as he watches the DELUGE behind TINTIN and HADDOCK.

SAKHARINE  
Faster, you idiot, faster!

TINTIN skillfully navigates the MOTORCYCLE, as TOM desperately steers the JEEP down flooded streets.

ANGLE ON: SAKHARINE looking behind them ...

SAKHARINE POV: a TORRENT of MUD is BEARING DOWN on them! TINTIN'S MOTORCYCLE is getting closer!

TINTIN and HADDOCK drive past on motorbike with sidecar ... SNOWY LEAPS into the JEEP and tries to grab the SCROLLS. SAKHARINE tries to keep them from SNOWY, only to have the SCROLLS grabbed by TINTIN. SNOWY JUMPS BACK TO THE MOTORCYCLE.

SAKHARINE (CONT'D)  
Devil!

TINTIN  
I'll have those, thank you!

HADDOCK  
Come on, Snowy! Come on! Incoming falcon at 4 o'clock!

SAKHARINE'S FALCON flies after TINTIN and HADDOCK... he swoops down!

The MUDSLIDE slams into the city BUILDINGS, destroying everything in its path.

A TANK bursts through the WALL behind them and HADDOCK is banged on the head by the BARREL. HADDOCK'S COAT is snagged by the TANK CANNON and he is lifted from the SIDECAR.

HADDOCK (CONT'D)  
Tintin, faster!

The scrolls slip from TINTIN's hand - HADDOCK grabs two.

TINTIN  
The scrolls!

HADDOCK  
Got one! Two!

SNOWY grabs the SCROLL before it flutters away.

TINTIN  
And three!

The MOTORCYCLE breaks in two, and TINTIN and SNOWY sail off in different directions!

TINTIN (CONT'D)  
Snowy!

HADDOCK hangs from BARREL of TANK... the TANK careens and slides all over the road, smashing HADDOCK from one wall into another.

HADDOCK hangs precariously over the edge of a drop...

HADDOCK falls through lines of washing...

HADDOCK loses another SCROLL which flutters up into the air!

The SCROLL flutters in the air, HADDOCK tries to grab it.

HADDOCK  
Oh, no - oh no! Not again! Come here, my beauty!

The FALCON swoops in and snatches the SCROLL... HADDOCK gives chase, cursing as he goes!

HADDOCK (CONT'D)  
Ten thousand thundering typhoons!  
Come here, you pilfering parakeet!

TINTIN collects HADDOCK on the front of his MOTORBIKE.

TINTIN  
Captain, the bird - grab it!

SNOWY rides atop the MUDSLIDE and manages to capture the FALCON, pinning him down with the SCROLL still in his BEAK! They RACE alongside TINTIN and HADDOCK.

TINTIN (CONT'D)

Nice work, Snowy - don't let him go!

HADDOCK launches himself at the FALCON ... he manages to upset SNOWY and the BIRD - they fly through the air into a BUILDING, as SNOWY hangs on by his TEETH to the SCROLL the FALCON holds in his TALONS!

HADDOCK ends up inside the building ... he swirls around and around as the MUD RISES HIGHER ...

HADDOCK

Hang on, Snowy! Snowy, I'm coming!

HADDOCK grabs SNOWY. Winded, SNOWY lets go of the SCROLL.

The FALCON snatches the SCROLL ...

SAKHARINE arrives in the JEEP ...

SAKHARINE

There he is! There he is, stop! Stop!!

He raises his arm to the bird.

SAKHARINE (CONT'D)

That's right. That's right, come to daddy! Come to daddy ...

TINTIN intercepts the FALCON!

TINTIN

Got you!

SAKHARINE

No, wait!

He grabs the bird and manages to get two of the SCROLLS before the FALCON escapes!

TINTIN

No!!

As SAKHARINE pursues TINTIN, HADDOCK bears down on SAKHARINE and his HENCHMEN.

SAKHARINE

Come on, quickly! Quickly!

HADDOCK

Geronimo!

HADDOCK lands on the JEEP!

HADDOCK (CONT'D)

You double-dealing, pilfering  
parasites!

SAKHARINE

Keep your eye on the boy!

HADDOCK thumps ALLAN, ALLAN tries to fight back.

TINTIN chases the FALCON through the collapsing BUILDING and nearly manages to capture it after it becomes entangled in a LOOM. The FALCON breaks free and the chase continues!

TINTIN

Excuse me! Pardon me! Sorry!

The MOTORCYCLE is smashed on a bridge, and TINTIN uses the HANDLEBARS to ride ELECTRICAL WIRES like a ZIPLINE. He runs along the WALLS of BUILDINGS, SMASHES into POLES and rides a LANTERN after the FALCON, the THREADS that still entangle the bird just beyond his grasp!

Just as the FALCON loses TINTIN, he jumps from a BALCONY and grabs the FALCON.

TINTIN (CONT'D)

Got you!

ALLAN

There he is!

TIME SLOWS as TINTIN slowly aligns the SCROLLS, still locked in the TALONS of the FALCON. The mysterious SYMBOLS slowly become NUMBERS.

TINTIN

The scrolls are lining up. These  
are hidden numbers.

SAKHARINE observes TINTIN from nearby.

TINTIN (CONT'D)

What does it say?

TINTIN's moment of discovery is interrupted by SAKHARINE.

SAKHARINE

I wouldn't do that if I were you!

TOM and ALLAN hold HADDOCK over the edge of a nearby BUILDING.

SAKHARINE (CONT'D)

Let the bird go. What do you value more, those scrolls or Haddock's life?

HADDOCK

Agh! Don't listen to him! You'll never get away with this, you sour-faced sassonack!

SAKHARINE

I will kill him!

TINTIN refuses to release the FALCON.

HADDOCK

Don't worry about me, Tintin, I'm fine!

SAKHARINE

Let the bird go now or this man dies!

ALLAN and TOM prepare to throw HADDOCK into the water.

TINTIN

No, wait!

HADDOCK

(to SAKHARINE)

You two-timing troglodyte! You simpering son of a po-face profiteer.

SAKHARINE

Perhaps we should put it to the test. Here's mud in your eye!

ALLAN and TOM throw HADDOCK into the MUD!

HADDOCK

Fat head!

TINTIN releases the FALCON and dives in after him! The FALCON flies to SAKHARINE'S ARM.

EXT. BAGGHAR HARBOUR - DAY

WIDE ON: The TANK finishes dragging the HOTEL BAGGHAR to the harbor before falling into the water. THOMPSON and THOMSON emerge on the balcony.

THOMPSON  
We're saved!

THOMSON  
I love the beach.

THOMPSON  
You said you wanted a holiday!

THOMSON  
Quite.

The MANAGER of the HOTEL comes out and places a STARFISH on his SIGN to add a fourth star to the hotel's three.

ANGLE ON: The KARABOUDJAN STEAMS AWAY from the BAY. HADDOCK is watching it LEAVE.

HADDOCK  
(furious outrage)  
Nobody takes my ship!

ANGLE ON: HADDOCK turns to TINTIN for support, but finds TINTIN just sitting, looking defeated.

TINTIN  
They've already taken it.

HADDOCK  
Nobody takes my ship twice!

HADDOCK (CONT'D)  
(energized)  
We'll show them, eh, won't we, Tintin? Alright then - what's the plan?

TINTIN  
There is no plan.

HADDOCK  
Of course there's a plan - you always gotta have a plan.

TINTIN  
Not this time.

EXT. BAGGHAR HARBOUR - CONTINUOUS

HADDOCK looks at TINTIN expectantly.

TINTIN  
Sakharine has the scrolls. They'll  
lead him to the treasure... it  
could be anywhere in the world.  
We'll never see him again.

TINTIN shakes his head.

TINTIN (CONT'D)  
It's over.

HADDOCK  
I thought you were an optimist!

TINTIN  
Well, you were wrong, weren't you?  
I'm a realist.

HADDOCK  
That's just another name for a  
quitter.

TINTIN  
You can call me what you like.  
Don't you get it? We failed.

HADDOCK  
Failed? There are plenty of others  
willing to call you a failure, a  
fool, a loser, a hopeless souse!  
But don't you ever say it of  
yourself!

HADDOCK pokes TINTIN in the chest and he falls back into his  
chair. HADDOCK looks at TINTIN a beat.

HADDOCK (CONT'D)  
You send out the wrong signal, that  
is what people pick up. Do you  
understand? You care about  
something, you fight for it. You  
hit a wall, you push through it.  
There's something you need to know  
about failure, Tintin...

HADDOCK turns and walks away from TINTIN. TINTIN looks up at  
HADDOCK. HADDOCK turns and looks at the KARABOUDJAN leaving.

HADDOCK (CONT'D)  
You can never let it defeat you.



TINTIN plays back what he has just heard. He looks up. And suddenly we know we've reached a TURNING POINT.

TINTIN  
What did you just say?

HADDOCK  
You hit a wall, you push through it?

TINTIN  
No, no, no, you said something about sending out a signal!

TINTIN slaps one hand with the other.

TINTIN (CONT'D)  
(explaining)  
Of course! Captain, I sent a radio message from the Karaboudjan. I know what radio frequency they're transmitting on.

HADDOCK  
Well, how does that help us?

TINTIN  
All we have to do is send that information to Interpol. They can track the signals and figure out which way they're headed.

The THOM(P)SONS appear in the distance, walking along the beach towards them.

HADDOCK  
(delighted)  
Here comes Interpol now.

THOMPSONS  
Tintin!

TINTIN  
Any port they enter, we'll know at once.

HADDOCK'S eyes sweep round the harbour and settle on the SEAPLANE that is moored there.

HADDOCK  
We can get there first!

EXT. DOCKS - NIGHT

WIDE ON: A BUSY EUROPEAN DOCKLAND. CRANES stand like skeletal DINOSAURS, RAILWAY TRACKS run up the length of WHARFS, where many SHIPS are MOORED.

ANGLE ON: The KARABOUDJAN pulls into DOCK.

SAKHARINE comes STRIDING down the GANGWAY, TOM and ALLAN behind him.

STANDING next to a stately BENTLEY CAR, waiting for them, is NESTOR in a CHAUFFEUR'S UNIFORM.

TOM

What are we doing here, boss? I don't get it. We're right back where we started.

SAKHARINE

You're to speak of this to no one. Keep your mouths shut.

ALLAN

Don't worry. As long as we get our share.

SAKHARINE

Oh, you'll get your share. Just guard the ship.

SAKHARINE brandishes the three SCROLLS.

TOM

But where are you going?  
(beat)  
Where's the filthy moulah?

SAKHARINE exchanges a glance with ALLAN. He understands ALLAN'S worry.

SAKHARINE walks toward his waiting CAR, where NESTOR is standing.

NESTOR

Good evening, sir. I trust you had a successful trip abroad?

SAKHARINE

(rudely)  
Do I pay you to talk to me?

NESTOR  
(muttering under his  
breath)  
You don't pay me at all.

ANGLE ON: SAKHARINE slides into the CAR.

SUDDENLY, CHAINS lift on either side of the CAR!

Before SAKHARINE can react, the car starts rising into the air!

WIDE ON: The CAR is being lifted by one of the huge WHARF CRANES!

SAKHARINE  
What the blazes? Nestor, Nestor!

ALLAN and TOM come out of the SHIP with their GUNS drawn. They look up and see the CAR moving TOWARD THE CRANE!

SAKHARINE (CONT'D)  
TOM, ALLAN, YOU BLITHERING IDIOTS,  
DON'T JUST STAND THERE, DO  
SOMETHING!

ALLAN and TOM just stand and watch.

ANGLE ON: HADDOCK in the CAB of the CRANE, pulling LEVERS!

HADDOCK drives the CRANE forward and SWING THE CAR to the top of the ROOF of a BUILDING, where TINTIN stands with the THOM(P)SON TWINS.

THOMPSON  
Caught him like a rat in a trap!

TINTIN  
Congratulations, gentlemen. He's  
all yours.

THOMSON  
Yes! We also have an arrest warrant  
issued by both Interpol and the  
FBI.

THOMPSON  
Your friend who got shot...

TINTIN  
Barnaby!?

THOMPSON

One of their agents. Hot on  
Sakharine's trail from the start.

TINTIN

It still doesn't make any sense. He  
has the key to the treasure of the  
Unicorn, which is sitting somewhere  
on the ocean floor. Why would he  
come back home?

ANGLE ON: The CAR swings over and lands in front of the  
waiting group; they approach the CAR.

ANGLE ON: HADDOCK laughs from his CRANE as they approach.

THOMPSON steps forward and pulls open the back door... the  
back is EMPTY!

THOMSON

Right.

THOMPSON (CONT'D)  
Sakharine?

THOMSON  
Sakharine?

SILENCE.

SAKHARINE sits up in the driver seat.

SAKHARINE

That's Mr. Sakharine to you!

SAKHARINE pulls a GUN and keeps them at gunpoint; the others  
slowly back away.

SAKHARINE (CONT'D)

Hold it!

ANGLE ON: HADDOCK sees ALLAN'S REFLECTION in the broken  
windshield of the crane.

ALLAN enters with a GUN in HAND; HADDOCK quickly turns the  
CRANE, throwing ALLAN off balance. The GUN goes off, the  
BULLET shattering a WINDOW. HADDOCK tries to WRESTLE IT FROM  
HIS GRIP.

The CRANE ARM swings wildly, and TINTIN and the THOM(P)SONS  
leap for their lives as SAKHARINE'S CAR swings across the  
ROOF, slams into a WALL and is lifted INTO THE AIR.

SAKHARINE (CONT'D)

What's going... ?

HADDOCK and ALLAN in the CRANE CAB. ALLAN pushes HADDOCK out the SIDE DOOR, and he hangs precariously from a RAILING. ALLAN runs to the controls and raises the CRANE, lifting SAKHARINE and the CAR into the air.

SAKHARINE (CONT'D)

Allan! Allan! Get me down, get me down, man!

ANGLE ON: SAKHARINE in the CAR as it is SWUNG AWAY from the BUILDING on the PALLET.

SAKHARINE (CONT'D)

Not that way! Not that way, you fool, the other way!

HADDOCK sneaks in behind ALLAN, throws him from the ROOM, and ALLAN lands in the BED of a PASSING TRUCK. He takes a seat at the CRANE CONTROLS.

SAKHARINE jumps out of the CAR and into the cab of SECOND CRANE.

ANGLE ON: SAKHARINE takes a seat in the SECOND CRANE. He struggles with the CONTROLS.

EXT. ESTABLISH POSITION OF CRANES

SAKHARINE and HADDOCK jump into action, and the CRANES approach each other and COLLIDE!

HADDOCK and SAKHARINE duel, as the MASSIVE METAL ARMS of the CRANES violently SLAM into each other. TINTIN and the THOM(P)SONS dive to safety as SAKHARINE'S CRANE ARM swings just over their heads. SAKHARINE then uses the arm to throw a PALETTE of CEMENT BAGS into HADDOCK'S CAB.

EXT. COLLISION / CRANES DUELING

HADDOCK fights to clear the CAB of the DUST and DEBRIS; the ARM of SAKHARINE'S CRANE crashes into the front window of his CAB.

ANGLE ON: A POLICE CAR is split in two by a CRANE.

HADDOCK slams his CRANE ARM onto the SAKHARINE'S CABIN, ripping away the ROOF!

SAKHARINE

Close, but no cigar!

SAKHARINE knocks out the SUPPORTS of HADDOCK'S CRANE with a PALETTE of BOXES. HADDOCK hits his head on the CABIN ROOF. BOXES and CRATES rain down on TINTIN, SNOWY and the TWINS. TOM runs at them with a GUN, but is trapped as several TIRES land on him. A group of THUGS rush to TOM'S aid, but SNOWY opens a CRATE of CANS that trip them up!

HADDOCK charges with his CRANE; SAKHARINE and HADDOCK are face to face.

HADDOCK  
(deadly)  
Red Rackham!

SAKHARINE  
That's right, my ancestor. Just as  
Sir Francis was yours.

HADDOCK  
(grim)  
Unfinished business.

SAKHARINE  
I'm glad you know the truth,  
Haddock. Until you could remember,  
killing you wouldn't have been this  
much fun!

SAKHARINE'S CRANE slides backward, the ARM SWINGS WILDLY and  
knocks HADDOCK'S CRANE over!

ANGLE ON: TINTIN watches as HADDOCK'S CRANE falls.

HADDOCK'S CRANE lands on the DECK of the KARABOUDJAN; he  
tumbles out of the cabin with other debris from the CRANE.

SAKHARINE walks down the ARM of the CRANE toward HADDOCK.

HADDOCK  
Who gave you permission to board my  
ship?!

SAKHARINE  
I don't need it.

SAKHARINE pulls a SWORD from his CANE.

SAKHARINE (CONT'D)  
I've never needed it.

As HADDOCK stands, he grabs a METAL LEVER off the GROUND.

ANGLE ON: HADDOCK and SAKHARINE duel, just like their ANCESTORS did... and just as RED RACKHAM did, SAKHARINE fights DIRTY.

CLANG! The METAL of the SWORD meets the STEEL of the LEVER.

SAKHARINE kicks HADDOCK to the ground. As HADDOCK tries to get up, SAKHARINE grabs a FISHNET and throws it at HADDOCK; it wraps around his neck. SAKHARINE pulls HADDOCK to him and then spins him around. SAKHARINE lets go on the final turn, and HADDOCK slams against CRATES filled with WHISKEY BOTTLES.

SAKHARINE walks away from HADDOCK.

As HADDOCK starts to get up slowly, a BOTTLE rolls onto his HAND. HADDOCK looks up at SAKHARINE.

A BOTTLE slams into SAKHARINE'S BACK. Suddenly, SAKHARINE is bombarded with BOTTLES - he tries to FEND THEM OFF but THERE ARE TOO MANY!

HADDOCK has his arms filled with bottles, throwing them at SAKHARINE with all his might as he crosses the DECK.

As SAKHARINE ducks for cover, he falls over the edge onto a LOWER PLATFORM.

HADDOCK slowly walks up with one BOTTLE left in his hand.

SAKHARINE comes up with the SCROLLS in one hand and a LIGHTER in the other.

SAKHARINE (CONT'D)

The legend says only a Haddock can discover the secret of the Unicorn - but it took a Rackham to get the job done! So you've lost again, Haddock. That's right, why don't you have a drink? That's all you've got left, isn't it? Everything that was rightfully yours is now mine, including this ship!

SUDDENLY, TINTIN swings in and retrieves the scrolls from SAKHARINE!

HADDOCK

Thundering typhoons. Nobody takes my ship.

HADDOCK punches SAKHARINE in the FACE, sending off the ship's railing! HADDOCK kicks the last BOTTLE of WHISKEY after him. It hits SAKHARINE on the head.

TINTIN looks up and locks eyes with HADDOCK, he sees a new man.

EXT. POLICE LONGBOAT - NIGHT

THE THOM(P)SON TWINS pull SAKHARINE out of the water, and throw him down on the DECK of the POLICE LONGBOAT.

THOMSON

We have you now, you devil. You are under arrest!

THOMPSON

To be precise... you are under arrest.

SAKHARINE puts his hands up in defeat.

EXT. KARABOUDJAN DECK - DAWN

TINTIN holds the SCROLLS up, allowing the SUN to SHINE through them.

TINTIN

Do you see?

CLOSE ON: A row of NUMBERS and LETTERS along the bottom of the SCROLLS.

HADDOCK

Blistering barnacles! They're coordinates!

TINTIN

It took all three scrolls to form the numbers.

HADDOCK

Latitude and longitude ... that is it! That's the location of the treasure!

TINTIN reaches out his hand, but HADDOCK grab him and they do a celebratory dance. HADDOCK laughs.

TINTIN

We did it!



EXT. MARLINSPIKE COUNTRYSIDE - DAY

CLOSE ON: The WIND rushes through SNOWY's fur, and then TINTIN'S COIF. HADDOCK raises a SEXTANT to his eye, checking location against the position of the sun. Puffy clouds tower above, and we assume he's at sea.

HADDOCK  
Almost there, Mister Tintin. A  
nudge to starboard should do it.

CLOSE ON: TINTIN... low angle, looking up towards the SKY,  
WIND blasting his HAIR.

TINTIN  
Are you sure we're on course?

HADDOCK  
Aye, trust me, laddie - I know  
these parts like the back of my  
hand!

WIDE ON: HADDOCK is standing on the passenger seat of a car,  
TINTIN behind the wheel.

HADDOCK (CONT'D)  
Starboard! Quickly! Quickly!

TINTIN  
Aye, Captain - starboard it is...

They go off the road and drive through hedges.

EXT. MARLINSPIKE FRONT DOOR - DAY

They come through the clearing and arrive at the front steps  
of MARLINSPIKE HALL.

HADDOCK  
FULL STOP!

ANGLE ON: TINTIN looking up at the exterior of the large  
mansion.

HADDOCK (CONT'D)  
Marlinspike Hall!

TINTIN  
Those coordinates lead here. This  
is where Sir Francis hid it?  
(puzzled)  
I thought the treasure went down  
with the ship...

ANGLE ON: NESTOR opens the front door and welcomes HADDOCK and TINTIN.

NESTOR  
Master Haddock, Mister Tintin, I've  
been expecting you.

INT. MARLINSPIKE HALLWAY - DAY

ANGLE ON: HADDOCK steps inside the GRAND HALL.

NESTOR  
Welcome to Marlinspike Hall.

HADDOCK  
Would you look at this place! I  
don't think it's changed at all  
since I was a wee boy.

NESTOR  
And may I say, Sir, how much I am  
looking forward to having a Haddock  
back in charge of the estate.

HADDOCK  
You'll be waiting a long time,  
Nestor.  
(wistful)  
There's no way I could afford to  
live here.

TINTIN  
Well, Captain, you know the house.  
Where do we start?

HADDOCK thinks a moment ...

HADDOCK  
Is the cellar still here?

INT. MARLINSPIKE HALL CELLAR - DAY

ANGLE ON: NESTOR leads HADDOCK and TINTIN down the STAIRS into a DIM VAULTED CELLAR... HADDOCK looks around in CONFUSION.

HADDOCK  
No, no, no, no, no, this isn't  
it. I meant the other cellar.

NESTOR

I'm sorry, sir - there is no other cellar.

HADDOCK

It was bigger than this...

ANGLE ON: SNOWY runs away and suddenly DISAPPEARS!

TINTIN

Snowy! Snowy, where are you?

TINTIN moves over to the other side of the room, there is a wall with furniture all stacked up. The GUARD DOG is looking around trying to get to the other side.

TINTIN looks around and sees an opening.

TINTIN (CONT'D)

Captain, help me.

HADDOCK AND TINTIN start to remove the furniture.

ANGLE ON: TINTIN finds a small hole in the brick wall.

TINTIN AND HADDOCK LOOK AT EACH OTHER.

SNOWY is on the other side.

TINTIN (CONT'D)

Snowy. Just like you said, Captain.  
You hit a wall...

HADDOCK

... you push through it.

INT. SECRET CELLAR, MARLINSPIKE - DAY

ANGLE ON: BOOM! TINTIN and HADDOCK using an OLD LUMP OF WOOD as a BATTERING RAM! They SMASH it against the BRICKS, PUNCHING a larger HOLE in the BRICK WALL.

ANGLE ON: TINTIN climbs through the wall into a LONG VAULTED ROOM, lit with filtered LIGHT beaming down from DUSTY SKYLIGHTS ... the ROOM is FULL of ANTIQUES, old SUITS of ARMOR, PAINTINGS, STATUES.

HADDOCK

My Grandfather must've walled it up before he lost the house.

TINTIN and HADDOCK hurry along the ROWS of ANTIQUES ...  
TINTIN looks to the STATUE of a BEARDED MAN holding a CROSS.

TINTIN

And then shines forth, the Eagle's  
Cross...

HADDOCK

I can see the cross but where's the  
eagle?

TINTIN

St. John the Evangelist, who was  
always depicted with an eagle, and  
he's called the Eagle of Patmos. He  
is the eagle.

(at the statue)

But what is he trying to tell us,  
Captain? I'm at a loss.

CLOSE ON: A CARVED, STONE GLOBE. HADDOCK leans close to study  
it.

The GLOBE has detailed islands and coastlands in raised  
relief. HADDOCK traces an ARCHIPELAGO of TINY ISLANDS.

HADDOCK

That island, the one in the middle,  
that doesn't exist.

TINTIN

How do you know?

HADDOCK

Because I've sailed those waters  
countless times. I've been there.  
It's a mistake.

CLOSE ON: TINTIN; an idea is forming in his mind.

TINTIN

What if it isn't... ?

HADDOCK looks at TINTIN, intrigued...

TINTIN (CONT'D)

Sir Francis wanted his inheritance  
to go to a man who was worthy of  
it... a man like himself, who knows  
the seas like the back of his hand.  
A man who could look at a globe and  
tell if one tiny island was out of  
place.

HADDOCK takes TINTIN's meaning. He leans forward and slowly  
presses the TINY ISLAND that shouldn't be there...

CLICK!! The top of the GLOBE pops open, like a lid!

TINTIN and HADDOCK lean forward, peering into the GLOBE.

HADDOCK  
(quiet awe)  
Blistering treasure! It's Red  
Rackham's barnacles!

TINTIN dips his hand in and brings out a HANDFUL of TREASURE.

HADDOCK (CONT'D)  
What's this?

HADDOCK lifts out the lining containing the rest of the TREASURE and chuckles. He recognizes that it is SIR FRANCIS'S HAT. He empties the contents of the HAT into another container, and proudly puts it on.

TINTIN pulls a SECOND PIECE OF PARCHMENT from the GLOBE.

INT. SECRET CELLAR, MARLINSPIKE - DAY

NESTOR arrives, carrying a tray with a BOTTLE OF CHAMPAGNE and GLASSES.

HADDOCK  
Ah hah! It's just a wee tippie - a  
toast to our good fortune!  
(drinks)  
Oh, that's better! It's odd  
really... you'd would of thought  
after all the fuss and bother,  
there would've been more ...

HADDOCK drinks TINTIN's glass.

TINTIN  
More of what?

HADDOCK  
Red Rackham's treasure! I mean, by  
your own account he looted half of  
South America! I just thought...  
ach, never mind. There's plenty to  
go around.  
(sighs)  
Oh, it's a funny old life, eh?  
Well, you've got your story for  
your newspaper. - all's well that  
ends well.

NESTOR leaves.

TINTIN  
It's not ended.

ANGLE ON: TINTIN holds up a PARCHMENT MAP.

TINTIN (CONT'D)  
Sir Francis left another clue at  
the bottom of the globe.

HADDOCK  
A clue to what?

TINTIN  
Four hundred weight of gold just  
lying at the bottom of the sea.

HADDOCK and TINTIN exchange a look.

TINTIN (CONT'D)  
How's your thirst for adventure,  
Captain?

HADDOCK  
Unquenchable, Tintin!

TINTIN and HADDOCK stare at the map together. The CAMERA  
ZOOMS in on SNOWY. He BARKS, almost like he is saying, "Oh  
no, not again... help!"

TITLE CARD: AND THE ADVENTURE CONTINUES ...

END TITLES