

captain blood, issue two

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## ISSUE TWO: GENERAL NOTES

Our first "pirate" issue. There are a number of recurring characters here, and they'll be in their "pirate" outfits from here one out -- as opposed to slave wear -- so it might be a good idea to get some running costume choices going.

This may well be a black and white book, but then again, it might not be. If it isn't, with a cast this big, it might be good to have some simple colour cues for the cast to help us keep them straight at a glance.

According to the book, Blood dresses elegantly but simply, favoring (in the beginning) black clothes with silver accessories.

Wolverstone is a giant of a man, one-eyed (in the "lost an eye" sense, not the "freakish cyclops" sense) and dresses plainly in browns and greens.

Ogle, the gunner, would favour clothes that can get dirty -- dark greys, dark browns.

Pitt is apparently "almost foppish," with purples, reds, and probably pirate ruffles.

Dyke is in greens. He's also black, which is pretty distinctive. He's the next captain, one they get another ship. He's calm and in command, but not as flashy or interesting as Blood.

HATS: Later in this issue, and in the third issue, Blood's crew will mingle with French pirate crews run by Lavasseur and Cahusac. It's important to tell them apart, so I suggest we put Blood's men in hats or bare-headed, and the French pirates in headscarves.

## ISSUE TWO, PAGE ONE

PAGE DETAILS: Opposite numbers meet. A first-page splash, establishing our hero, Peter Blood, facing off against our half-issue villain, Don Diego. Blood is dressed in black-and-silver pirate finery. Diego is dressed well, but still in his conquerin' outfit from the day before, when Blood captured him.

We've jumped forward a day, which can be shown by Blood being a bit better dressed and clean-shaven, more composed.

IMPORTANT: Blood is wearing a distinctive neck-sash. He'll give it to Estaban later, and if Estaban ever returns in a series, the sash will be a plot point and a character motif.

## PANEL ONE

As said, full-page splash: Don Diego, arms bound behind his back and bristling with anger, is thrusting his chin out at Captain Blood, who is -- as always -- as cool as a sea cucumber.

## CAPTION

This, then, is Peter Blood:

## CAPTION (2)

Once a doctor! Once a soldier!

## CAPTION (3)

Yesterday: a slave!

## CAPTION (4)

Today: a FUGITIVE!

## DON DIEGO

(translated)

Arrogant MONGREL! You capture me,  
take my SHIP--

## DON DIEGO (2)

(translated)

And you think I will NAVIGATE for  
YOU? Do what you will with me!  
NEVER will I aid you!

ISSUE TWO, PAGE TWO

## PANEL ONE

Captain Blood smiles at the defiant Don Diego.

## BLOOD

(translated)

My navigator is INDISPOSED, Don  
Diego. You're the only person on  
the Cinco Llagas QUALIFIED to guide  
us.

## PANEL TWO

## DON DIEGO

(translated)

And if I refuse?

## BLOOD

(translated)

Without a navigator, we'll be lost,  
captured and killed.

## PANEL THREE

Blood's men present Don Estaban, Diego's son, bound and struggling. Wolverstone has a knife at Estaban's throat.

BLOOD  
(translated)  
But your SON will be dead long  
before it comes to that.

ESTEBAN  
(translated)  
F- father?

DON DIEGO  
(off, translated)  
Esteban!

## PANEL FOUR

Diego strains against his bonds again.

DON DIEGO  
(translated)  
You wouldn't! You MONSTER!

BLOOD  
(translated)  
Make no mistake, Don Diego. We are  
not SAVAGES. But we are fugitives.

## PANEL FIVE

Blood draws in close to Don Diego, uncomfortably so.

BLOOD  
(translated)  
And we are DESPERATE men.

## ISSUE TWO, PAGE THREE

## PANEL ONE

Don Diego sags in defeat.

DON DIEGO  
(translated)  
As you wish. I will navigate.  
You... keep my son safe.

BLOOD  
(translated)  
Your son will be as safe as ANY man  
on this vessel.

PANEL TWO

Blood points off the stern.

BLOOD  
(translated)  
We make for Curaco. Once there,  
you, your son and the crew members  
we captured will be released.

DON DIEGO  
(translated)  
For some reason I TRUST you, Blood.  
I will guide you to Curaco.

PANEL THREE

Blood and Diego shake.

PANEL FOUR

Wolverstone and Ogle watch from the side of the vessel. Ogle is the least trusting of the crew, and Wolverstone is naturally suspicious as well.

WOLVERSTONE  
Our captain is quick to think the  
best of people.

OGLE  
A dangerous habit at the best of  
times, Mr. Wolverstone.

PANEL FIVE

Don Diego is talking to the the helmsman, pointing off in an off-panel direction. He looks sly.

OGLE  
(caption)  
But especially for men such as us.

ISSUE TWO, PAGE FOUR

PANEL ONE

It's late evening. Dyke and Ogle are helping Pitt -- still in bandages, but functional -- up from belowdecks.

PITT  
How-- how long have I been --

OGLE  
Days, Pitt.

DYKE  
But it's fine. We found a navigator. We're on course.

PANEL TWO

Pitt is looking up at the sky.

PITT  
Where is Blood?

DYKE  
There have been some delays, but--

PITT (2)  
WHERE IS BLOOD?!?

PANEL THREE

Captain Blood approaches Pitt, who is gesturing angrily at the darkening sky.

BLOOD  
Pitt! You're awake, my friend!

PITT  
What IS this? We were supposed to make for Curcao!

BLOOD  
We ARE making for --

PANEL FOUR

Pitt grasps Blood by the shoulders.

PITT  
The stars, man! Our bearing! This isn't RIGHT! Not right at all!

BLOOD

What?

PANEL FIVE

Blood strides over to Don Diego, who is staring intently off the bow.

BLOOD

(translated)

Don DIEGO! What game are you  
PLAYING?

DON DIEGO

(translated)

Ah. Captain. The game is simple.

PANEL SIX

Don Diego smiles a shark smile.

DON DIEGO

(translated)

It is a game I play with my  
BROTHER, Miguel, every time I raid  
an English settlement that might  
muster a ship to follow.

PANEL SEVEN

Past Diego, we can see a ship -- a galleon -- coming up upon Blood's vessel.

DON DIEGO

(translated)

It is called "RENDEZVOUS."

ISSUE ONE, PAGE FIVE

PANEL ONE

Blood grabs Diego, spinning him around.

BLOOD

(translated)

I swore I would KILL you if --

DON DIEGO

(emphatically NOT translated)

THEN KILL ME, ENGLISH DOG!

PANEL TWO

Don Diego lunges at Blood's throat.

DON DIEGO  
Yes, I speaks English! I has been  
LISTENING to you DAYS now!

PANEL THREE

Wolverstone and Ogle pull Don Diego back. Don Diego is struggling against them.

DON DIEGO  
If you kill me, kill my son -- my  
brother, Don Miguel, he kill you  
all DEAD!

DON DIEGO (2)  
He SEEN us by now! He COMING!

PANEL FOUR

Blood snarls at Don Diego, who is struggling for his freedom.

DON DIEGO  
You have TWENTY MEN maybe on this  
ship, Blood! He have HUNDRED!  
Surrender and live! Kill me and  
DIE!

PANEL FIVE

Wolverstone leans in to confer with Blood.

WOLVERSTONE  
He is serious, Blood. We cannot  
take Don Miguel. And he is not  
afraid to die.

BLOOD  
Don Diego does not fear his death.  
But I know who does.

PANEL SIX

Blood points down towards the belowdecks.

BLOOD  
Wolverstone, fetch Don Esteban.  
Ogle. Dyke. Bring Don Diego below  
with me.



ISSUE ONE, PAGE SIX

PAGE DETAILS: Okay, we're in the gunnery, where the cannons are. It's dark with just the light of the cannon slots, and that's a good opportunity, because Blood is about to shift gears. So far this issue he's been debonair and gentlemanly (except for the early threat) -- now he has to show some steel. We need to sell him as the sort of man who would casually blow a guy to pieces -- shadows, hidden faces, whatever you have to make him suddenly look sinister.

PANEL ONE

Don Estaban is being forced down the steps by Wolverstone into a darkened room.

DON ESTEBAN  
(translated)  
Unhand me, you cur! My FATHER will  
teach you some manners!

PANEL TWO

Insert shot of Don Estaban's face -- horrified.

DON ESTEBAN  
(translated)  
Father?

PANEL THREE

A large panel. Don Diego has been tied across the mouth of a cannon, facing forward -- toward the cannon opening in the ship wall -- his arms and legs pulled backwards and lashed to the rear of the cannon. The cannon muzzle is pushed into the centre of his back like this: if it goes off, it will blow his lungs and the rest of his torso to smithereens. It looks very very painful. Captain Blood stands beside him, looking at Estaban (us, since this is Estaban's POV).

DON DIEGO  
(translated)  
Blood. I kill you for this.

BLOOD  
(translated)  
Listen to me carefully, boy.

PANEL FOUR

Captain Blood leans forward. We're out of POV now, watching Blood talk to the boy, almost nose to nose.

BLOOD  
 (translated)  
 Your uncle's ship lies close to  
 here. He has the power to destroy  
 us, but not before we fire one  
 volley.

PANEL FIVE

Captain Blood gets right in the kid's face.

BLOOD  
 (translated)  
 And a particular cannon will fire  
 first.

PANEL SIX

BLOOD  
 (translated)  
 Now it is in BOTH our interests to  
 see that the cannons do not fire.

ISSUE ONE, PAGE SEVEN

PAGE DETAILS: Finally, we meet Blood's true opposite number:  
 Don Miguel, the Spanish captain. He's like Don Diego but  
 more kick-ass. Remember him! He'll be in all our subsequent  
 issues, and a recurring villain if this ever turns into an  
 ongoing.

PANEL ONE

Captain Blood and Don Estaban are standing on the deck of  
 Don Miguel's ship, a few chests at their feet. Don Miguel is  
 talking to them.

DON MIGUEL  
 (translated)  
 Esteban! My nephew! And --

BLOOD  
 (translated)  
 Don Pedro Sangré, Don Miguel. Don  
 Diego is... indisposed. A slight  
 wound from a skirmish -- nothing  
 serious, but he cannot rise.

PANEL TWO

Don Miguel arches an eyebrow.

DON MIGUEL  
 (translated)  
 Then I must go to him! Ailing or  
 no, he is my brother.

DON ESTEBAN  
 (translated, panicked)  
 No!

DON MIGUEL (2)  
 (translated)  
 NO, nephew?

PANEL THREE

"Don Pedro Sangré" steps in.

BLOOD  
 (translated)  
 Don Miguel, we have brought you  
 some ... findings... from our  
 recent SALVAGE.

PANEL FOUR

Blood opens a chest to reveal piles of gold.

BLOOD  
 (translated)  
 But as a REPRESENTATIVE of the  
 Spanish Crown, there are certain  
 reasons you should NOT board Don  
 Diego's ship. Brother or no.

ISSUE ONE, PANEL EIGHT

PANEL ONE

Don Miguel lets a handful of gold run through his fingers.

DON MIGUEL  
 (translated)  
 If I do not see what you have in  
 the hold, I will not have to DENY  
 it later, hmm? Clever.

PANEL TWO

Don Miguel claps Blood on the shoulder.

DON MIGUEL  
 (translated)  
 You tell my brother to meet me in  
 Hispanola in a week.

PANEL THREE

Don Miguel looks Don Esteban in the face.

DON MIGUEL  
 (translated)  
 And you look after your father,  
 hmm? He takes too many risks.

DON ESTABAN  
 (translated)  
 I --

PAGE FOUR

Don Estaban falters, then recovers. We can see Blood behind  
 him, looming over his shoulder.

DON ESTABAN  
 (translated)  
 Yes, Uncle. I will.

ISSUE ONE, PAGE NINE

PANEL ONE

Blood and Don Esteban are back aboard the Cinco Llagas.  
 Blood is waving to Don Miguel on the other boat with one  
 arm; the other arm is around Don Esteban's shoulder in a  
 gesture that looks friendly but is actually holding Don  
 Estaban fast.

BLOOD  
 (translated)  
 Good sailing, Don Miguel! Until  
 Hispanola!

BLOOD  
 (low voice, NOT translated)  
 Haul anchor and set sail.

PANEL TWO

Don Esteban breaks free from Blood's arm and runs.

DON ESTEBAN  
 (translated)  
 FATHER!!

PANEL THREE

Don Esteban runs down the steps into the gun chamber.

DON ESTEBAN  
 (translated)  
 Father, I--

PANEL FOUR

Don Esteban's POV: Don Diego is still lashed to the cannon, but his head is slack. He's dead.

DON ESTEBAN  
 (translated, off)  
 Father?

ISSUE ONE, PAGE TEN

PANEL ONE

Looking at Esteban: Blood is standing over his shoulder, a bit creepy in the half-light of the gunnery.

BLOOD  
 Your father is dead.

PANEL TWO

Esteban grabs his father, trying to pull him free.

ESTEBAN  
 (translated)  
 FATHER!

PANEL THREE

Peter Blood pulls him back.

BLOOD  
 (translated)  
 I'm a doctor, boy. I know death.

BLOOD  
 (translated)  
 He died of fright. A moment before  
 we left him.

PANEL FOUR

Don Esteban glares at Blood, right in the face.

ESTEBAN  
 (translated)  
 Had I known that when we left, you  
 would be hanging from a yardarm.

BLOOD  
 (translated)  
 I know.

PANEL FIVE

Blood takes his sash and ties it around the boy's neck in a gesture of fondness and some pity.

BLOOD  
 Mark this, boy. A clever man  
 can always find profit in the  
 ignorance of others.

PANEL SIX

Abovedecks. Blood gives Wolverstone some instructions.

BLOOD  
 Prepare a skiff, Wolverstone. We'll  
 pull close to a point, let the boy  
 and his crew row to shore.

WOLVERSTONE  
 Too merciful by half, Blood. We  
 should hang him, with the rest of  
 the Spanish.

PANEL SEVEN

Esteban (sash around his neck) and some scared-looking Spanish pirates are standing by the side of the deck with some supplies.

BLOOD  
 (caption)  
 Give them a keg of water and a sack  
 of dumplings, and to the Devil with  
 them.

PANEL EIGHT

Blood is talking to Pitt, who is at the wheel.

PITT

Curaco?

BLOOD

Not now. It's a Spanish town, and they will be out for blood. We need to find harbor somewhere less amenable to them.

BLOOD (2)

Set sail for the French port of Tortuga.

ISSUE ONE, PAGE ELEVEN

PAGE DETAILS: A montage of general pirating. We're leaping about six months forward over the next three pages, chronicling Blood's arrival in Tortuga and his rapid ascent from escaped slave with a stolen boat... to a renowned pirating type. To leap the narrative forward (as is done in the original book, too) we're using the tool of Jeremy Pitt's journal.

IMPORTANT: Pitt's journal will be used as an exposition device in subsequent issues too, so find a style that you like and are comfortable with for journal entries. Try not to use something too "hand-written," as this has to be very legible. It's the whole plot!

PANEL ONE

Pirate action. Blood and his crew -- Ogle, Wolverstone, Dyke, etc. -- are leaping onto another ship they have latched onto. Mayhem is ensuing.

CAPTION

(journal-style)

From the journals of Jeremy Pitt,  
Shipmaster for Captain Peter Blood:

CAPTION

(journal)

It was only harsh circumstance -- being sought by both the English and the Spanish -- that forced Blood to dock the Cinco Llagas at the wild French port of Tortuga -- the French being enemies of both England and Spain. Blood's original intention was to make our way to France or Holland.

## CAPTION

(journal)

But no ships going to either country were available, and the bribe used to distract Don Miguel had reduced our resources drastically. I am certain that Blood never intended to join hands with buccaneers. Not at first.

ISSUE TWO, PAGE TWELVE

PAGE DETAILS: Dramatic Leap Forward continued. Blood is now commanding a crew of 100+ men.

## CAPTION

(journal)

But Blood was driven. Trouble drove him, inaction drove him, and something else besides.

## CAPTION

(journal)

He was an escaped slave, an outlaw in his own land and a homeless outcast in any other. But the sea is free to all, especially those at war with humanity -- this outlawry, his military training and skill. Is it any wonder he succumbed? That he RENAMED the Cinco Llagas and took to the sword, signing the articles that bound his fellow outlaws? Can you blame him?

## CAPTION

(journal)

And this trade, that might have worn a repellent aspect when urged by greasy, half-drunken adventurers, boucan-hunters and lumbermen, became a dignified, almost official form of privateering when advocated by the courtly, middle-aged gentleman who in representing the French West India Company seemed to represent France herself...



## ISSUE ONE, PAGE THIRTEEN

PAGE DETAILS: Annnd we're back. We're going to jump from M. d'Ogeron, the governor of Tortuga, to Lavasseur, who is a very "piratey" pirate.

## PANEL ONE

The very comfortable M. d'Ogeron, in his well-furnished and fancy study, fingers steepled as he gazes over a desk. He'll recur in this issue, and in any ongoing series. D'Ogeron resembles a sleek, satisfied cat, surrounded by his treasures and comfortable in his position, but crafty and dangerous in his own right.

## CAPTION

(journal)

...Monsieur d'Ogeron, the governor of the island, who levied as his harbour dues one tenth of all spoils brought into the bay, AUGMENTED by his status as the sole person who could convert recovered booty into French francs.

## PANEL TWO

In a smoky tavern: LAVASSEUR. He's -- as said on page 13 -- a greasy, half-drunken adventurer. As compared to Blood's refined, well-dressed, well-groomed pirate, Lavasseur is a huge, crazed, sloppy pirate stereotype.

## CAPTION

(journal)

And then there was LAVASSEUR.

## CAPTION

(journal)

Blood had the skill and the reputation, but there was word that the Spanish were hunting him. That Don Miguel was scouring the seas. Blood had more ability than any mere buccaneer, but not nearly the manpower to resist the Spanish under Don Miguel's capable direction.

## PANEL THREE

Lavasseur and Blood shaking hands on the deck of a ship. There are many pirates around.

IMPORTANT: We will, in both this issue and the next one, distinguish Blood's men and the French pirates of Lavasseur (and later Cahusac) via headgear. "Our" pirates wear hats or are bare-headed; the French pirates all wear headscarves.

CAPTION

(journal)

So when Lavasseur approached Blood with his many ships and hundreds of men, offering a partnership, Blood made a deal with the devil. Why not?

CAPTION

(journal)

What was one extra layer of damnation, more or less?

CAPTION

(journal)

Blood signed the articles, and became Lavasseur's partner at Wolverstone's urging -- and against his own better judgement.

ISSUE ONE, PAGE FOURTEEN

PAGE DETAILS: Transition from the journal-drive overview back to exciting pirate comics.

PANEL ONE

Lavasseur is on the docks with Blood, a handful of jewelry and gold held up between them -- he's crazed and gloating, Blood is cool and reserved.

LAVASSEUR

Ha! We are UNSTOPPABLE, Blood! With your tactics supporting my MIGHT, we plunder at WILL!

BLOOD

The ENGLISH and the SPANISH. Never the French. Never the Dutch. D'Oregon will not STAND for it.

PANEL TWO

An attractive woman, Madeline, runs into Lavasseur's arms. She's Governor d'Ogeron's daughter, so a little resemblance is a good idea.

MADELEINE  
Lavasseur! My bold captain!

LAVASSEUR  
Madeleine! My flower!

PANEL THREE

The two are passionate about each other.

MADELEINE  
I was so WORRIED --

LAVASSEUR  
I am the king of the seas, my love!  
There's no reason to --

D'OGERON  
(off)  
LAVASSEUR!

PANEL FOUR

Insert shot of Lavasseur, suddenly aggravated.

LAVASSEUR  
Worry...

PANEL FIVE

D'Ogeron is striding across the docks, accompanied by some very capable-looking guards. While Blood is badass and Lavasseur is, er, also badass, D'Ogeron makes sure to keep the most dangerous men on the island on his payroll.

D'OGERON  
Get your hands OFF my DAUGHTER!

ISSUE ONE, PAGE FIFTEEN

PANEL ONE

One of the guards keeps Lavasseur back at swordpoint as D'Ogeron drags Madeleine back.

MADELEINE  
Daddy! No!

D'OGERON  
Madeleine! I have TOLD you to stay  
away from this SHARK!

PANEL TWO

Sword to his throat, Lavasseur sneers.

LAVASSEUR

My money is good enough for you,  
D'Ogeron, but I am not good enough  
for your daughter?

PANEL THREE

D'Ogeron has placed himself between Madeleine -- who is being held back by another guard -- and Lavasseur.

D'OGERON

As another CONQUEST for Lavasseur?  
My Madeleine will not be SULLIED by  
your bloodstained hands!

LAVASSEUR

HA!

PANEL FOUR

Lavasseur steps back.

LAVASSEUR

Madeleine WILL be mine, D'Ogeron! I  
know it, SHE knows it!

PANEL FIVE

Blood and Pitt watch from close by.

PITT

This will be a problem.

BLOOD

Women and ships. Bad luck.

PITT (2)

Really? I SAW what you renamed the  
Cinco Llagas.

BLOOD (2)

That's different.

ISSUE ONE, PAGE SIXTEEN

PANEL ONE

Lavasseur's first mate, Cahusac -- who will be a recurring character in the next issue -- is running up the dock, waving a letter in his hand.

CAPTION  
 (Pitt's journal)  
 The next morning, our grim  
 prediction indeed came to pass.

CAHUSAC  
 (French)  
 LAVASSEUR!

## PANEL TWO

A groggy Lavasseur steps up from belowdecks as Cahusac thrusts the letter into his hands.

LAVASSEUR  
 (French)  
 Cahusac? What the DEVIL --

CAHUSAC  
 (French)  
 Madeleine! She -- READ this, man!

## PANEL THREE

We can see the letter in Lavasseur's hands.

LETTER  
 (French)  
 My well-beloved - I am in the Dutch  
 brig Jongvrow, which is about to  
 sail. Resolved to separate us  
 forever, my cruel father is sending  
 me to Europe in my brother's  
 charge. I implore you, come to my  
 rescue. Deliver me, my well-beloved  
 hero! - Your desolated Madeleine,  
 who loves you.

## PANEL FOUR

Lavasseur crumples the letter in his fists.

LAVASSEUR  
 (French)  
 Rouse the men. We sail immediately.

CAHUSAC  
 (French)  
 But -- that's a Dutch ship,  
 Captain! Protected by treaty. The  
 articles forbid it, and Captain  
 Blood will--

## PANEL FIVE

Lavasseur yells at Cahusac, all rage and bloodlust.

LAVASSEUR

(French)

I care NOTHING for the articles!  
And even LESS for CAPTAIN BLOOD! We  
sail in ONE HOUR! I promise you,  
HEADS WILL ROLL!

PANEL SIX

Cahusac is alone as Lavasseur starts barking orders off-panel.

LAVASSEUR

(off, French)

LEDUC! HAUL ANCHOR! DANIEL! ROUSE  
THE CREW!

PANEL SEVEN

Cahusac, furtive, talks to a cabin boy on the deck.

CAHUSAC

(French)

Boy. Tell D'Ogeron that we're  
sailing on the Dutch. That I cannot  
stop Lavasseur, but I want NO part  
of the blame for this.

ISSUE ONE, PAGE SEVENTEEN

PANEL ONE

Meanwhile, on the Dutch ship Jongvrow, Captain Dutch (he'll never be named) is at the helm, smoking his pipe. Captain Dutch should be a nice older sort of gent. We need to sell (next page) that he's a good old chap, and pretty much harmless, so that Lavasseur killing him is brutal, and Madeleine's reaction to his death is adequately horrified.

SHOUT

(off, Dutch)

SHIP AHOY! FROM TORTUGA AND GAINING  
FAST!

PANEL TWO

Captain Dutch and his first mate look back off the bow of the boat.

FIRST MATE

(Dutch)

That's -- my God, captain, it's La Foudre.

CAPTAIN DUTCH

(Dutch)

Lavasseur's ship. Can we outsail them?

PANEL THREE

Captain Dutch's POV: La Foudre, bearing down on them.

FIRST MATE

(off, Dutch)

No chance, sir. He outguns us as well.

PANEL FOUR

Close on Captain Dutch, his face grim.

CAPTAIN DUTCH

(Dutch)

Get the men on deck.  
This will not be pleasant.

PANEL FIVE

Lavasseur and Cahusac on the bridge of La Foudre.  
Lavasseur's face is still furious.

CAHUSAC

(French)

Almost in range, Captain. They're not even trying to fire.

LAVASSEUR

(French)

Prepare the grapples. Unsheathe your swords.

PANEL SIX

CAHUSAC

(French)

I beg you, Captain. We SIGNED the articles. The Dutch are off-limits.

LAVASSEUR

(French)

We attack who I SAY we attack, Cahusac. And I say --

ISSUE ONE, PAGE EIGHTEEN

PAGE DETAILS: Full-bore pirate action! Lavoiseau and his bloody crew on the deck of the Dutch ship, attacking the Dutch left and right. Bloody (but not TOO bloody).

PANEL ONE

Lavoiseau, sword raised, leads his men in a battle across the Dutch ship's deck. 2/3-page splash!

LAVASSEUR  
(French)  
ATTACK!

PANEL TWO

Captain Dutch, sword raised feebly, is backing across the deck, with Lavoiseau advancing on him.

CAPTAIN DUTCH  
(French)  
Lavoiseau -- we are following the  
governor's orders.

LAVASSEUR  
(French)  
And I am following my nature.

PANEL THREE

Madeleine runs out of the cabin.

MADELEINE  
(French)  
Lavoiseau! My love! You came to --

ISSUE ONE, PAGE NINETEEN

PANEL ONE

Madeleine's POV. Lavoiseau hacks deep into Captain Dutch's neck with his sword.

LAVASSEUR  
(French)  
DIE!

PANEL TWO

Madeleine's horrified face.



MADELEINE  
 (French)  
 Save... me...

## PANEL THREE

Lavasseur is standing before Captain Dutch, who has sunk to his knees in front of Lavasseur. He's pulling his sword out of Captain Dutch's neck.

LAVASSEUR  
 (French)  
 One moment, my love. I have a  
 promise to keep.

## PANEL FOUR

Lavasseur raises his sword high, looking at Madeleine (us) with a cheery, psychotic grin.

LAVASSEUR  
 (French)  
 I promised heads would roll.

## PANEL FIVE

Madeleine's horrified face as Lavasseur (off-panel) chops Captain Dutch's head off.

SF/X  
 SCCHLLLCKT  
 SF/X (2)  
 thud

## ISSUE ONE, PAGE TWENTY

## PANEL ONE

Lavasseur advances on Madeleine, who shrinks back in horror.

LAVASSEUR  
 (French)  
 And now, my darling --

MADELEINE  
 (French)  
 No! I -- I didn't realize you --

LAVASSEUR (2)  
 (French)  
 That I WHAT?

## PANEL TWO

Lavasseur grabs Madeleine to pull her close.

LAVASSEUR  
(French)  
That I kill? That I PLUNDER?

## PANEL THREE

Madeleine tries to pull away as Lavasseur grips her tight.

LAVASSEUR  
(French)  
That I take what I WANT?

MADELEINE  
(French)  
No. Please, no...

BLOOD  
(off, English)  
WHATEVER you want, Lavasseur?

## PANEL FOUR

Captain Blood and crew! They have grappled the OTHER side of the Dutch ship, and are boarding. We've switched to ENGLISH for the time being.

BLOOD  
Regardless of the ARTICLES?  
Regardless of our PARTNERSHIP?

LAVASSEUR  
(off)  
CAPTAIN BLOOD!

## PANEL FIVE

Captain Blood is standing on the rail of the ship, holding a guy rope for support.

BLOOD  
Aye. Captain Blood. Governor D'Ogeron woke me from a pleasant slumber this morning with a most UNUSUAL request.

BLOOD (2)  
I could scarce believe my ears.

## PANEL SIX

Captain Blood extends a hand in the look-at-all-this-nothing gesture.

BLOOD

The great Lavasseur, breaking TWO oaths to pursue a barely armed ship? And one with NO treasure?

ISSUE ONE, PAGE TWENTY-ONE

PANEL ONE

Lavasseur's men, who are bloody and wounded after their battles with the Dutch, look up angrily.

PIRATE

(French)

No TREASURE?

PIRATE #2

(French)

What the DEVIL are you playing at, Lavasseur? We risk the GALLOWS!

PANEL TWO

Lavasseur still has a tight grip on Madeleine.

LAVASSEUR

SILENCE! You follow me, and the girl is MINE! To do with as I PLEASE!

MADELEINE

(French)

I -- am -- NOT -- YOURS!

PANEL THREE

Madeleine kicks Lavasseur in the shins, pulling free.

MADELEINE

(French)

I thought you -- I HATE you!

LAVASSEUR

Arrrrgh!

PANEL FOUR

Lavasseur raises his sword, preparing to hack at Madeleine.

LAVASSEUR  
I'll show you what happens when you  
spurn the attentions of --

PANEL FIVE

Captain Blood steps in, the point of his sword suddenly at  
Lavasasseur's throat.

BLOOD  
The King of the Seas?

PANEL SIX

Blood and Lavasseur, face to face.

LAVASSEUR  
Blood... she is MINE.

BLOOD  
Not according to the ARTICLES,  
Lavasasseur.

ISSUE ONE, PAGE TWENTY-TWO

PANEL ONE

The assembled men on the deck -- including Cahusac and some  
of Blood's crewmembers -- watch Blood as he speaks, turning  
half from Lavasseur to address the crowd.

BLOOD  
The articles state that we divide  
our plunder into SHARES!

BLOOD (2)  
But how do you divide a WOMAN into  
shares? It can't be done!

PANEL TWO

Wolverstone raises his sword above his head. Ogle is with  
him. Madeleine is behind them now, still looking terrified.

WOLVERSTONE  
I say we RANSOM her!

OGLE  
Aye! The governor would pay  
THOUSANDS for her! TWENTY thousand,  
easily!

PANEL THREE

Lavasseur is seriously losing his mind. Blood is still cool as a pirate cucumber. Pirate cucumbers are cool, by the way.

LAVASSEUR  
YOU -- SHE IS MINE! Not YOURS! Not  
the GOVERNOR'S! I SAY WHAT WE DO!

BLOOD  
What say your MEN, Lavasseur?

PANEL FOUR

Assembled filthy pirates on the deck. Cahusac is in front of them, looking stern.

CAHUSAC  
We did not follow you and violate  
the articles for NOTHING,  
Lavasseur. We're with Blood.

PIRATES  
RANSOM! RANSOM! RANSOM!

PANEL FIVE

Wolverstone grins broadly, stepping aside to reveal a chest brimming with coins.

WOLVERSTONE  
What a coincidence.

WOLVERSTONE (2)  
We happen to have the ransom right  
here.

PANEL SIX

Blood presses in closer to Lavasseur -- he's addressing the crowd, but he's speaking to his enemy.

LAVASSEUR  
How did you GET that money? From  
D'OGERON?

BLOOD  
My share from our recent  
adventures. So if we pay the girl's  
ransom here and now, would you  
OBJECT?

PANEL SEVEN

Cahusac, standing in front of his crew. Because Lavasseur's out.

CAHUSAC  
No objections here. CAPTAIN Blood.

ISSUE TWO, PAGE TWENTY-THREE

PANEL ONE

Lavasseur rears back in a fury, raising his sword.

LAVASSEUR  
YOU CONNIVING, TREACHEROUS --

PANEL TWO

Blood catches Lavasseur's sword with his own on the downstroke.

BLOOD  
YOUR choice, Lavasseur.

PANEL THREE

Blood swipes his sword, freeing his and forcing Lavasseur's sword into the air.

LAVASSEUR  
I WILL CUT YOU FROM --

PANEL FOUR

Blood runs Lavasseur through with his sword.

LAVASSEUR  
Huurrgh

PANEL FIVE

Blood pauses a moment, Lavasseur slumped against him, his sword through Lavasseur and up to the hilt.

PANEL SIX

Blood lets Lavasseur fall, his sword sliding out of him as the corpse slides to the deck.

BLOOD  
Wolverstone, I believe we owe these men a ransom.

ISSUE ONE, PAGE TWENTY-FOUR

PANEL ONE

Pirates celebrate as Wolverstone tips the chest and gold scatters across the deck.

CAHUSAC  
(off)  
CHEERS FOR CAPTAIN BLOOD!

PIRATES  
(off)  
RAH!

PANEL TWO

Madeleine stares up at Captain Blood, half admiring, half fearful.

MADELEINE  
And what will you do to me?

BLOOD  
Take you home. Leave you in peace.

MADELEINE (2)  
Captain Blood, I -- I--

BLOOD (2)  
Don't speak of it. Live your life.

PANEL FOUR

Wolverstone joins Blood at the helm of the Dutch ship.

BLOOD  
Wolverstone. Steer the brig back.  
We'll claim possession of it in  
port.

WOLVERSTONE  
You are a most unusual outlaw, my  
friend. What moves you to DO these  
things?

PANEL FIVE

Captain Blood boards the former Cinco Llaga.

BLOOD  
I have my reasons, Wolverstone.

PANEL SIX

Captain Blood at the helm of his ship, steering into the middle distance.

CAPTION

(journal)

He had his reasons, but would not speak of them.

PANEL SEVEN

A close of the front of Blood's ship, finally revealing what he renamed it: fresh paint on the weathered wood, reading ARABELLA.

CAPTION

(journal)

Peter Blood was a very private man.

END OF ISSUE TWO