

## **ONE**

**Panel 1:** NIGHT on the docks in a slightly seedy harbor (think 1700s Spanish port). Moonlight picks out details on a variety of eclectic golden age of piracy sailing vessels from various cultures.

NO COPY

**Panel 2:** Rats and other nocturnal animals have the run of the wooden crates and sailing paraphernalia stacked on the docks.

NO COPY

**Panel 3:** Four men stand together in front of a locked warehouse door trying not to look shifty. Two of the men are burly and hard looking. These two each have a crowbar tucked away and one has a coil of rope on his shoulder. Third man is cut from the same cloth but bigger and meaner. The fourth man is skinny, soft looking, and well dressed.

NO COPY

**Panel 4:** One of the burly men holds up a coil of rope attached to a grappling hook with one hand and points to the roof with the other.

NO COPY

**Panel 5:** The bigger man (LEADER) smacks the one with the rope on the head while the skinny man holds up the key like it's a big reveal.

NO COPY



## **THREE**

**Panel 1:** Inside the office, the two burly men stumble off balance through the wreckage of the office door. They are dark outlines with low backlight from main warehouse through the windows and the open doorway.

1. SFX: Crack!

**Panel 2:** The thieves are suddenly lit up and raise their hands to shade their eyes, squinting in the sudden glare.

2. MONA (OFF): Well, hello boys. It's about time.

**Panel 3:** The owner of the now unshielded oil lamp is a tough looking woman in her late 50s (see Robin Wright as Antiope or Angela Bassett). MONA is dressed like a seafaring man with some flare. Not quite as flamboyant as a pirate, but leaning that way. She sits comfortably behind the office desk looking expectant and unafraid. She holds a flintlock in her right hand which is supported on her left arm. The gun is pointed at the thieves.

3. SKINNY GUY: Mona! I was just here...um...to show these new...uh...investors around for my uncle.

4. MONA: In the middle of the night. With crowbars.

**Panel 4:** The leader emerges, pushing the skinny guy to the side. In the background, the burly men stand with one on each side of the broken door.

5. BIG GUY: You'll not take this score without a fight, Smoke Tiger.

6. MONA: I've not heard *that* name in an age. But you misunderstand the situation.

**Panel 5:** ROLLO enters the office. He is the shipping merchant who owns the warehouse. In his 60s and well dressed, but a working man. He is flanked by DOCKWORKER 1 and 2 with drawn flintlocks who are turned to face the thieves on each side of the door.

7. ROLLO: I knew I could count on you, Mona. Call the watch!

## **FOUR**

**Panel 1:** Rollo is turned now to face the thieves and recognizes the skinny man.

1. ROLLO:                               You?! My own flesh and blood!
2. SKINNY:                             You can't give me to the law, uncle.

**Panel 2:** Rollo turns to look at Mona, clearly torn.

3. ROLLO:                               How did you know it was him?
4. MONA:                                I didn't. But, the list of suspects was short.

**Panel 3:** Rollo turned back to look at Skinny, frowning.

5. MONA (OFF):                        I gave each suspect a different day for the delivery and waited to see who showed up.

**Panel 4:** Skinny giving Rollo a pleading look. In the background, Leader is attempting to slide out the door unnoticed.

6. ROLLO:                                I won't call the law. But, you'll be en route to Losa with naught but the clothes on your back by morning.
7. SKINNY:                             Rollo! You can't do that!

**Panel 5:** Mona standing with the flintlock pointed towards the door. Smoke pours from the gun's barrel. Now that we see her standing, she is about 6 feet tall and solidly built.

8. SFK:                                  Crack!

**Panel 6:** Leader is no longer sneaking away. He faces back into the office, holding his now bleeding shoulder and looking murderously at Mona. Rollo waves his hands, gesturing to Dockworker 1 and 2 to round up the thieves.

9. BIG GUY:                             So, *you* are a thief taker now. That's rich.
10. MONA:                               Only on special occasions.
11. ROLLO:                              Take this rabble down to Big Sal and make sure she finds a secure berth for them.

## **FIVE**

**Panel 1:** Now alone, Rollo and Mona stand facing each other.

1. ROLLO: I owe you. I couldn't afford to lose that cargo.  
2. MONA: We stopped counting favors long ago.

**Panel 2:** Over the shoulder of Rollo, facing Mona. She sits behind the desk with the flintlock lying beside her.

3. ROLLO: The smell of smoke and blood. Just like old times.  
4. MONA: Do you ever miss it?  
5. ROLLO: What I miss is the dream, not the reality. I no longer need to sleep with one eye open.

**Panel 3:** Mona sitting at the desk cleaning the flintlock.

6. MONA: Sometimes I feel like a big ol' tomcat lazing in the sun.  
7. ROLLO (OFF): And not like a tiger?  
8. MONA: Exactly.

**Panel 4:** Rollo goes down on one knee and uses a cloth to wipe up the bloodstain left on the floor by Leader.

9. ROLLO: We got old.  
10. MONA: Speak for yourself.

**Panel 5:** Rollo rising with one hand on the door frame to assist him getting to his feet.

11. ROLLO: The high seas are a young man's game. I'm happy to be safe on land.  
12. MONA: Not so safe once you tell your sister you just dragooned her son.  
13. ROLLO: Oh gods!

**Panel 6:** Mona sits cleaning the gun. Rollo is at the door ready to leave.

14. MONA: I'll lock up. You go and face certain doom.  
15. ROLLO: Wish me fair winds.  
16. MONA: Fair winds and full sails!

## **SIX**

**Panel 1:** NEXT AFTERNOON at the docks. A forest of masts. A flurry of activity below. Ships are being loaded and unloaded.

NO COPY

**Panel 2:** Mona walks by some men loading wicker cages of colorful birds onto a conveyance. One of them nods a greeting.

1. MAN: Good afternoon, Mona!

2. BIRD (SFX): Squawk!

**Panel 3:** Mona stops to talk to DOCKWORKER 1 who was with Rollo the night before. He is loading a cart and has a wound on his face that he didn't have before.

3. MONA: You get those thieves settled in with Big Sal?

**Panel 4:** Dockworker 1 ducks his head a bit looking sheepish. Mona is eyeing his wound.

4. DOCKWORKER 1: All but one.

5. MONA: Which one?

6. DOCKWORKER 1: The one you wounded. He was bleeding an all, so we didn't bind him too tight. He coshed me good and lit out.

**Panel 5:** Facing Mona as she walks away, talking over her shoulder. Behind her the dockworker looks relieved that he doesn't have to report it.

7. MONA: I'll go tell Rollo.

8. DOCKWORKER 1: Thanks!

**Panel 6:** Mona inside the same warehouse from the night before. She is approaching the still broken door to the office. A LAWWOMAN and a LAWMAN can be seen through the open door frame. They stand inside the office and the woman holds a wanted poster in her hands.

9. LAWWOMAN: A damn pirate!

10. LAWMAN: I can hardly believe it!

## **SEVEN**

**Panel 1:** Mona stands just outside of the door and listens to the law talking inside.

1. LAWWOMAN:                      This here wanted poster is as clear as day.

2. LAWMAN:                         The Smoke Tiger! Under our very noses this whole time.

**Panel 2:** Woman speaking inside the office. Close up of Mona's face looking shocked.

3. LAWWOMAN (OFF):            Rollo must have discovered her secret and she killed him for it.

**Panel 3:** Over Mona's shoulder as she peers in the window to the side of the door and sees Rollo on the ground in a small pool of blood.

4. LAWMAN (OFF):                She'll be long gone by now.

5. LAWWOMAN (OFF):            We'll call out the Queen's Hounds. They'll run her to ground.

**Panel 4:** Mona starting to scoot away from the broken door when her foot hits one of the broken boards on the ground from the night before.

6. SFX:                                Bang!

**Panel 5:** Mona starts to run off to the left, back the way she came in. The law are framed in the doorway to the right, both trying to squeeze through at the same time.

7. LAWMAN:                         Stop right there!

8. LAWWOMAN:                    Murderer!

**Panel 6:** Mona is near the warehouse exit but is climbing up a ladder to the next floor. Below her, the law stand at the open door of warehouse exit, one looking left, the other right as they try to spot her.

9. SFX:                                [exclamation points over the heads of the law]

## **EIGHT**

**Panel 1:** Mona is on the second floor of the warehouse now. She stands in an opening in the side wall of the warehouse (like the opening in a barn's hay loft) and looks down at the docks.

NO COPY

**Panel 2:** Mona looks up at a large hook above her attached to a rope that leads out of the loft and towards the dock. It is used to move items from the warehouse to shipside.

NO COPY

**Panel 3:** Mona dangling from the hook as it moves down the rope, towards the docks. Mona's legs pass over the heads of the lawman looking for her, but they don't look up.

NO COPY

**Panel 4:** Broken wicker cages. Colorful birds flying everywhere.

1. CRATES (SFX):                      Crash!
2. BIRDS (SFX):                      Squawk!

**Panel 5:** Mona stands on the dock pulling feathers out of her hair and deciding her next step. One of the escaped birds files past. Behind her is a sloop with an eye painted on it (like Greek fisherman do). KAI's SLOOP is a single masted fishing vessel with the sails wrapped up. It is not too small but can be handled by 1 person (see Kai's sloop photo).

NO COPY

**Panel 6:** The lawmen now stand in front of the sloop where Mona was just standing. The one on the left looks left. The one on the right looks right. They both look frustrated.

NO COPY





## **TWO**

**Panel 1:** NIGHT market on Soma, the closest neighboring island (think 1700s Caribbean port). A chaotic scene with vendors hawking food and other goods, lit by hanging lamps. Tent stalls made of colorful, textured fabric. Kai stands in front of two baskets full of fish, ready to sell them. Mona stands nearby with her hands on her hips, scanning the crowd.

NO COPY

**Panel 2:** In the next stall, a SLAVER grabs the arm of a young slave GIRL. She wears a loincloth and wide wooden cuff around one arm with a loop on it that shows it can be secured to something. She looks Polynesian and has gills on her neck and under her ribs. She is scared and pulling away from the man.

NO COPY

**Panel 3:** The slaver raises his hand to strike the girl. The girl raises her free arm to cover her head and ward off the blow.

NO COPY

**Panel 4:** Kai starting to move to forward as if to stop the slaver. Mona with her hand on Kai's shoulder pulling him back.

NO COPY

**Panel 5:** Kai looking up at Mona angrily. She shakes her head at him. Not happy about it but knows not to get involved.

NO COPY

## **THREE**

**Panel 1:** Mona with one hand on his shoulder looking into Kai’s face like she’s trying to impart something without words. He looks down and away from her.

NO COPY

**Panel 2:** Mona’s other hand gesturing towards the baskets of fish. Kai’s gaze follows it.

1. MONA:                                   You know what your father would say.

2. KAI:                                       It’s hard advice to follow sometimes.

**Panel 3:** Mona stepping away and turning to leave.

3. MONA:                                   It gets harder every time.

**Panel 4:** Over Kai’s shoulder as he watches Mona walking away into the market. She has one hand raised in farewell.

4. MONA:                                   Take care of yourself, Kai.

**Panel 5:** Mona making her way through the market which has a different flavor than the prior island. Mona walks past a man looking at wares who has a long knife on his belt.

5. SFX:                                      [market noises]

**Panel 6:** Mona walking away in the distance and we see the man’s sheath is now empty.

NO COPY

## **FOUR**

**Panel 1:** Mona turns a corner and sees a group of three people in the next aisle. They are some of the pirate crew from her old ship. STAN is small, dark, and wiry but the brains of the three. CARLOS is a big Spaniard, running to fat. He wears a wide striped sash around his waist. RITA is a muscular black woman with dreadlocks. She wears metal cuffs around both upper arms.

NO COPY

**Panel 2:** Over the shoulder of the crew as they catch sight of Mona and point at her. Mona is a few stalls away from them looking shocked.

1. CARLOS:                               There she is!
2. STAN:                                    Give us the map, Mona.

**Panel 3:** Mona dashes away into the night market stalls. Pirates give chase.

3. RITA:                                    Get her!

**Panel 4:** The pirates round the corner where Mona turned but don't see her in the dense crowd of people. One person farther down looks startled. Stan points towards the man.

4. SFX:                                     [exclamation point over head of one man farther down]
5. STAN:                                    There!

**Panel 5:** Mona is crouched down in front of the startled man about to crawl under the hanging fabric of a stall. She is looking back up at him and rolling her eyes at him like "keep it down."

NO COPY

## **FIVE**

**Panel 1:** Mona crawling into a tent selling different types of fabrics, scarves, sarongs. The vendor looks down at her with a scowl. Mona looks up at the vendor and makes an apologetic face and shrug.

NO COPY

**Panel 2:** Mona crawling out the other side of the tent and looking around.

NO COPY

**Panel 3:** Pirates in front of the fabric tent with one middle (STAN) gesturing for them to split up and the other two heading off in opposite directions.

NO COPY

**Panel 4:** Mona at the edge of the night fair and the start of an alley. She is looking up at the narrow balconies covered in clothing lines that lean over the alley.

NO COPY

**Panel 5:** Stan walks down same alley which is now empty. He is looking around warily.

NO COPY

## **SIX**

**Panel 1:** Facing Stan as he looks around and moves deeper into the alley. Mona is creeping up behind him, knife in hand.

NO COPY

**Panel 2:** Startled Stan has turned to face Mona. She has recognized him and realized he is not a knife level threat and started to lower knife.

1. MONA:                               How'd you guys know I was alive?
2. STAN:                                There's a new price on your head.

**Panel 3:** Mona stands facing him with arms crossed and knife tucked into belt. Stan peers behind her hoping for one of the other crew to show up.

3. MONA:                               You want to dance, Stan?
4. STAN:                                Just give me a quick shiner so I can say I tried.

**Panel 4:** Mona climbing up a crumbling wall onto a roof. Behind her, Stan is on the ground rubbing his face watching her go. Other crew members have run up beside him.

NO COPY

**Panel 5:** Mona running across the roof as Carlos and Rita climb over the edge onto the roof behind her.

NO COPY

**Panel 6:** Mona in the air after jumping off the roof into the water below. Carlos and Rita stand at the edge of the roof watching her fall. Rita points at the water and Carlos shakes his head.

NO COPY

## **SEVEN**

**Panel 1:** Back on the sloop, Kai is casting off from the dock. The two baskets, now empty, are on deck beside him. Behind him the same tarp that Mona was hidden in before is slightly lifted and her face peers out.

NO COPY

**Panel 2:** Kai is getting ready to release the sail and is now facing the tarp. He can see Mona emerging from beneath it.

1. KAI:                               You again?
2. MONA:                            Can you drop me up the coast a bit?
3. KAI:                               What happened?
4. MONA:                            I ran into my old crew.

**Panel 3:** Mona helping Kai to ready the sail. Kai looking at her skeptically.

5. KAI:                               So why didn't *they* drop you up the coast?
6. MONA:                            Pirate crew...

**Panel 4:** The sail is unfurled now. Kai is steering and Mona is tightening up the line.

7. KAI:                               Your old...pirate crew.
8. MONA:                            Did I not mention that before?

**Panel 5:** They are farther up the coast now and starting to tuck in closer to shore. They are coming in along the edge of some oyster farming beds. There are sea folk (like the slave girl at the market) standing and swimming in the beds.

9. MONA:                            This is a good spot.
10. KAI:                             Are these oyster farmers?
11. MONA:                          Oyster farms, yes. But the workers are slaves.
12. KAI:                             How can you stand it?

**Panel 6:** Kai has shifted the sloop's trajectory to bring them closer to the oyster beds. The workers have taken notice and some are starting to cluster near the edge.

13. MONA:                          You can't save everyone.
14. KAI:                             I saved you. Twice.

## **EIGHT**

**Panel 1:** The sloop is pulled in next to the group of slaves. A rope ladder is thrown over the side and Kai is halfway down the ladder talking to the workers. A slave WOMAN is standing in front. She looks Polynesian and has gills on her neck and under her ribs, like all sea folk.

1. KAI: I'm on my way off island now. Can I help?

2. WOMAN: Can you take the children?

**Panel 2:** The workers are sending forward the children to the front.

3. KAI: Where?

4. WOMAN: Anywhere.

**Panel 3:** WOMAN hands a 8 year old girl up to Kai. Kai reaches one hand out to take her. The GIRL has her hands out reaching back to the woman.

5. MONA (OFF): This is a bad idea.

6. KAI: I know. Help me.

**Panel 4:** Kai is handing 8 year old up to Mona who looks resigned. Two 11 year olds climb up the ladder beneath him – a boy and a girl. A 13 year old boy is waiting in the water below the ladder.

7. WOMAN: Leave now. Live free.

**Panel 5:** Focus on the group of children lined up at the rail looking down at the adults. The 13 year old boy (KOA) looks grim. The 11 year old girl (KUKUI) and boy (PAHIWA) have their arms around each other and tears are running down their faces. They are twins, so they look related. The 8 year old (PUA) is crying openly, holding her hands out to her mother. All of them look Polynesian and have gills at the neck and under the ribs.

NO COPY

**Panel 6:** Focus on the adults' faces as they watch the departing boat with fear and hope.

NO COPY



## **ONE**

**Panel 1:** MORNING. Black sails on the horizon. The BASTARD SAINT is a brig (or brigantine). See photo.

1. KAI (OFF):                   The Bastard Saint is gaining on us.

2. MONA (OFF):                I know.

**Panel 2:** White sails with a blood red crown are close behind the black sails. The ship of the Queen's Hounds is a galleon called FANG. See photo.

3. KAI (OFF):                   And the Queen's Hounds.

4. MONA (OFF):                I know.

**Panel 3:** Kai is standing up the sloop and looking behind them at the pursuers.

5. KAI:                            What are we going to do?

6. MONA (OFF):                I have a plan.

**Panel 4:** Mona is sitting with her back to the boats, working on something with her hands. She seems unconcerned.

7. MONA:                        My old crew wants my half of the map and the law wants me for murder. We need to convince each of them that I'm on the other ship. A fight ensues. Problem solved.

**Panel 5:** Around her, the kids are curled up asleep.

8. KAI (OFF):                   That's...not a bad plan.

9. MONA:                        Don't sound so surprised.

**Panel 6:** Back to the two ships on the horizon.

10. MONA:                       Our next stop is Mama Loa's.

11. KAI:                         A smuggler's haven. Tons of gossip. It could work.

## **TWO**

**Panel 1:** The sloop, sails furled, is pulled in behind a dilapidated building with boarded over windows. Mona is on the dock beside it, tying it up.

NO COPY

**Panel 2:** Kai is crouched down with one side of some canvas lifted. The kids are hidden underneath and peer back out at him.

1. KAI: Stay out of sight. We'll be back soon.

2. KUKUI: Hungry.

**Panel 3:** Kai standing up and slinging an empty bag over his shoulder.

3. KAI: We'll bring food.

**Panel 4:** Mona standing on the dock next to the sloop. Kai jumping down from the rail to stand beside her.

4. MONA: We could just leave them here.

5. KAI: You're not funny.

**Panel 5:** Mona and Kai walking through shabby area (think 1700s New Orleans).

6. MONA: The market is two streets down. We'll meet back at the boat.

7. KAI: Don't you want back up?

**Panel 6:** Mona smiling down at him wryly.

8. MONA: I can handle Mama Loa.

**Panel 14:**

## **THREE**

**Panel 1:** Outside of Mama Loa's bar with her sign over the open door. A burly sailor comes flying out headfirst, arms pinwheeling.

1. SFX: Ahhh!

**Panel 2:** Low shot of the sailor's body lying on the road with Mona's boots next to him.

2. MONA: Some things never change.

**Panel 3:** Inside of the bar. In the back of the room sitting in a large chair on a slightly elevated stage is MAMA LOA. She is a large brown woman wearing a brightly colored mumu. She's flanked on each side by a huge tattooed nephew. One of the nephews wears an eye patch.

NO COPY

**Panel 4:** Mona swaggers to a stop in front of Mama Loa.

3. MONA: Mama! You look as radiant as the dawn.

**Panel 5:** Close up of Mama Loa frowning down at Mona.

4. MAMA LOA: I never thought I'd see your mangy pelt back here, Smoke Tiger. You must have a death wish.

**Panel 6:** Mona with her arms flung wide. Trying to be a charming saleswoman.

5. MONA: I'm here to avail myself of your famed goodwill and charity.

6. MONA: And to ask you a favor.

**Panel 14:**

## **FOUR**

**Panel 1:** Close up of nephews' faces over Mama Loa's head. One is biting his lip and the other is hiding his mouth with his hand as they try not to laugh.

NO COPY

**Panel 2:** Mama Loa is leaning forward in her chair with her hands on her hips, head cocked to one side, eyeing Mona like she's gone crazy.

1. MAMA LOA:                      What are you playing at?

**Panel 3:** Mona really turning on the charm but she's a little rusty.

2. MONA:                              Up and down the archipelago, I've heard tales of the famed business acumen of Mama Loa...the keen eye...the wise nose...

3. MAMA LOA:                      My nose certainly smells something.

**Panel 4:** Mona bows theatrically to Mama Loa.

4. MONA:                              And I knew that Mama Loa's was the only place to go with this once in a lifetime deal!

5. MAMA LOA:                      Ha! A deal for who?

**Panel 5:** Mama Loa now has a twinkle in her eye. She's had an idea and she nods and strokes her chin while she thinks it over. Over her head, the nephews look at each other in surprise.

6. MAMA LOA:                      But...I have an idea. A favor for a favor.

**Panel 14:**

## **FIVE**

**Panel 1:** Mama Loa is pleased with her idea and is now smiling widely.

1. MAMA LOA:                    Lady Shang has run up quite a tab.

**Panel 2:** Mona looking shocked. This is the last thing she expected to hear.

2. MONA:                        Lady Shang is here?!

3. MAMA LOA:                Sleeping in my best bed, drinking my best wine, and sleeping with my best women. For free.

**Panel 3:** Mona rubbing her temple and looking like she just fell into a trap.

4. MONA:                        Well, I mean, I um...

**Panel 4:** Mama Loa gesturing towards the nephew with the eye patch.

5. MAMA LOA:                I sent my nephew to collect and she put out his eye.

**Panel 5:** Mama Loa wags her finger at Mona.

6. MAMA LOA:                I like my kin. You, not so much.

7. MONA (OFF):              You still mad about that mongoose in the bathhouse?

**Panel 6:** The two women face off against each other. Mama Loa looks pleased and Mona looks resigned.

8. MONA:                        If I do this, you'll do me a favor?

9. MAMA LOA:                Of course. If you survive.

**Panel 14:**

## **SIX**

**Panel 1:** Mona standing outside a lacquered door guarded by two burly pirate women, clearly the best room in the house. Mona looks like she'd rather turn around and leave.

1. MONA: I'm here to see Lady Shang.
2. GUARD: She's been expecting you.

**Panel 2:** Over the shoulder of the guard pulling the door shut as Mona, who is now inside the room, faces a dim figure at a desk, FAKE SHANG.

3. MONA: You've been expecting *me*?

**Panel 3:** In the dimness at the back of the room, an old Asian woman in a heavily brocaded nightgown sits behind a desk. Her face is lit by an oil lamp. The old woman's hand rests on the handle of a knife lying on the desk beside her.

4. FAKE SHANG: You know I have ears everywhere.

**Panel 4:** Facing Mona as she stands in front of the desk. She is trying not to show her shock. Behind Mona and closer to the door, there is a figure reclining on a chaise lounge.

5. MONA: The years have been...kind.
6. FAKE SHANG (OFF): I cannot say the same for you.

**Panel 5:** Still facing Mona who looks uncomfortable. Behind her, the reclining figure has started to stand. The slim figure (LADY SHANG) wears a wrapped shirt, trousers, and boots and is watching this exchange from under the lowered brim of a large hat.

7. MONA: So, how's business? I've heard tales of course, but...

**Panel 6:** The old woman lets fly the blade through the air towards Mona's head.

NO COPY

**Panel 14:**

## **SEVEN**

**Panel 1:** Mona dodges the blade and the figure behind her catches it out of the air.

NO COPY

**Panel 2:** The figure behind Mona pushes up the brim of its hat and reveals a beautiful Asian woman (see Lucy Liu). LADY SHANG is laughing and holding the knife in one hand. Her head is thrown back and she is holding her belly with the other hand.

SHANG (SFX):                    Ha! Ha!

**Panel 3:** Over Lady Shang's shoulder, we see Mona looking a bit sour. The joke is on her. Shang is putting the knife in her belt.

1. MONA:                         Really Shang. So childish.

2. SHANG:                        You should see your face. Priceless.

**Panel 4:** The women facing each other. Mona has her hands on her hips and is trying not to smile. Shang gestures Mona to sit on the bed.

3. MONA:                        I'm not sure that's such a good idea.

4. SHANG:                        It worked out in my favor last time.

5. MONA:                        Exactly.

**Panel 5:** Shang sitting on the bed. She leans back and supports her weight on her hands, one leg crossed over the other. She looks dangerous and sexy.

6. SHANG:                        I know why you're here.

7. MONA (OFF):                Mama Loa sent me to collect.

**Panel 6:** Over Mona's shoulder, as she looks at Shang. Shang is patting the bed beside her and smiling wickedly.

8. SHANG:                        This is a much better bargaining position.

**Panel 14:**

## **EIGHT**

**Panel 1:** Over Mona's shoulder as she approaches the sloop. The kids are in the stern looking down into the water. Kai is crouched in the bow storing goods away.

NO COPY

**Panel 2:** Mona looking down at Kai.

1. MONA:                                You got supplies?
2. KAI:                                    A few.

**Panel 3:** Mona casts off the line.

3. KAI (OFF):                        Did you plant the seeds?
4. MONA:                                Planted.

**Panel 4:** The kids are together in the stern, looking down into the water. The youngest (PUA) is kneeling and dropping food into the water. A tentacle reaches up from the water near her offerings.

5. KAI (OFF):                        Kids. Come help me with the sail.

**Panel 5:** Shot from underwater looking back up at Pua as she leans over, waving down.

NO COPY

**Panel 6:** The sloop sailing into the sunset. Something is following behind it underwater. Shown by movement in the water, maybe a glimpse of a tentacle.

NO COPY

**Panel 14:**



## **ONE**

**Panel 1:** MORNING. White. Mona, Kai, and the kids wake up on board the sloop surrounded by dense fog.

1. MONA:                                 This fog is unnatural.

2. KAI:                                     I know.

**Panel 2:** The wind is blowing hard and the sloop is rocking wildly. The kids are huddled together. Mona is looking off the stern and Kai is checking the bow.

3. KAI:                                     I can't see a thing.

4. MONA:                                 What is...?

**Panel 3:** The boat hits an underwater reef and the group are all tossed off their feet.

5. SFX:                                     CRACK!

**Panel 4:** The boat is starting to come apart while the group struggles to get up.

6. KAI:                                     She's breaking up!

7. MONA:                                 Everyone into the water!

**Panel 5:** In the ocean, a glimpse of tentacles near where the kids are entering the water after diving overboard.

NO COPY

**Panel 6:** Mona, in the ocean, treading water. Near her, the boat's side with the painted eye slips underwater.

8. MONA:                                 Kai?!

## **TWO**

**Panel 1:** Kai and Mona washed up on shore. They are on their knees, coughing and panting. The white wrapping near Kai's neck has some blood seeping through.

NO COPY

**Panel 2:** Kai is looking at the blood on his hands. Mona stands behind him getting her bearings.

1. KAI:                               Where are the kids?
2. MONA:                             Don't worry. They have gills.

**Panel 3:** Both standing now, looking around. The fog is starting to recede.

3. MONA:                             We should head inland.
4. KAI:                                We can't just leave them.

**Panel 4:** Kai washing the blood off his hands. Mona stands nearby looking inland.

5. MONA:                             I mean, we could.
6. KAI:                                Mona!

**Panel 5:** Mona is pointing inland at a nearby ridge.

7. MONA:                             Fine, but we still go inland. We'll have a better vantage from that...

**Panel 6:** Closer view of the ridge she is pointing at. A line of armed warriors stand on the ridge looking down at them.

8. MONA (OFF):                     ...ridge.
9. KAI (OFF):                        Crap.

## **THREE**

**Panel 1:** In ocean, kids are being held up by giant octopus, one in each tentacle.

NO COPY

**Panel 2:** Pua is dangling just above the octopus's head. It looks like it is going to eat her but Pua is smiling down at the octopus. [*ADD something when Pua is "talking" telepathically, like a pointy outline around the top of her head*]

NO COPY

**Panel 3:** The octopus has put them all back in the water but fog is all around them. They follow the octopus as it leads them through the fog to shore.

NO COPY

**Panel 4:** The kids all stand on the shore and face back to the octopus in the water. Pua waves at the octopus and it waves one tentacle back at her.

NO COPY

**Panel 5:** The kids are now facing inland and Koa points towards high ground. Huge dark figures can be seen lining the ridge he points out.

NO COPY

**Panel 6:** The kids are standing on the high ground now, facing away from the sea, and the dark figures loom above them. The figures are easter island type statutes.

NO COPY

## **FOUR**

**Panel 1:** Over the shoulder of the kids' shoulders as they are standing in shadow of the statues to make sure they are not seen. They look down at a nearby road where Kai and Mona are being led away as prisoners by a group of warriors.

1. PAHIWA: Do we go after them?

2. KUKUI: Of course we do!

**Panel 2:** Koa shaking his head and looking unconvinced.

3. KOA: When the fog clears, we should leave. We swim until we find somewhere safe.

**Panel 3:** Kukui pointing her finger at Koa. Her eyes are narrowed. She's stubborn. Koa with hands spread, trying to convince her.

4. KUKUI: They rescued us. We have to rescue them back!

5. KOA: I'm the elder now. It is my duty to keep you all safe.

**Panel 4:** Kukui appealing to her twin brother, Pahiwa. He's not buying it.

6. KUKUI: Pahiwa?

7. PAHIWA: Did you see all those warriors?

**Panel 5:** Pua stands in front of Koa with her hands on her hips. Her face is tipped up to him and she is "talking" to him mind to mind.

8. KOA: Pua, we can't rescue them!

9. KUKUI: See, Pua agrees. It's a matter of life debt.

**Panel 6:** Pahiwa scowling stands next to Koa who is looking up at the sky, exasperated.

10. PAHIWA: Stupid life debt.

11. KOA: When we get captured, I'm saying I told you so.

## **FIVE**

**Panel 1:** JIMMY GETCHA lounging on the ground in a large holding cell. Jimmy is a wiry man with a hawk nose and a thatch of unruly hair that sticks straight up like a bird's feathers. The cell door is open and Mona is flying into the room, tossed by the guards.

1. MONA (SFX):                      Whoa!

**Panel 2:** Kai is now flying through the air like Mona just did.

2. KAI (SFX):                        Aaaah!

**Panel 3:** Kai lands on Mona.

3. MONA (SFX):                      Uff!

**Panel 4:** Jimmy watching the two of them get untangled with a big grin on his face.

4. JIMMY:                              Why, as I live and breathe, the Smoke Tiger returns!

**Panel 5:** Jimmy standing now and reaching a hand down to help Mona up.

5. MONA:                                Jimmy Getcha. Nobody's killed you yet?

6. JIMMY:                                Many have tried, but none yet succeeded.

**Panel 6:** Mona standing now, gestures to Jimmy who has returned to lounging. Kai has remained on the ground.

7. MONA:                                Kai, meet my old mate, Jimmy Getcha.

8. JIMMY:                                Jimmy can getcha anything you need. Just ask!

## **SIX**

**Panel 1:** Mona grinning at Jimmy fondly.

1. MONA: Can you get us out of here?
2. JIMMY: Of course. Patience, my gray kitten.

**Panel 2:** Kai is looking at Jimmy skeptically.

3. KAI: That fog wasn't natural.
4. JIMMY: Right you are. The islanders conjure it up whenever they need new fighters for the arena.

**Panel 3:** Mona walking around the cell to see if there is any way out.

5. MONA: So, we're here to fight?
6. JIMMY: And we aren't even the main event. Just the warm up act.

**Panel 4:** Mona at the window checking to see how secure the bars are. A glimpse of the arena can be seen through the window over her shoulder. The seats are starting to fill.

7. JIMMY (OFF): The locals here call up air spirits to infuse them for a time. Everything they are is heightened. Artists paint better, musicians play better, and the warriors...

**Panel 5:** Jimmy lounging on a bench looking supremely unconcerned. Mona is facing him now, a darker shadow against the brightness of the window.

8. MONA: ...are better at beating the snot out of each other?
9. JIMMY: You've got it! There's a whole mess of weapons for you to choose from over there.

## **SEVEN**

**Panel 1:** Mona and Kai talking as they sort through a chest of weapons in the far corner of the cell, just out of earshot of Jimmy.

1. MONA: Jimmy was a friend. Of sorts.
2. KAI: Do you trust him?

**Panel 2:** Mona holding up a curved sword and testing its edge with her thumb.

3. MONA: Of course not.
4. KAI (OFF): Then why so friendly?

**Panel 3:** Kai examining a barbed trident. Mona keeps digging in the chest.

5. MONA: If he's telling the truth, he might come in handy.
6. MONA: If he's lying, I can use him to learn the lay of the land.

**Panel 4:** Mona holds a mace in one hand and a boarding axe in the other, weighing her options.

7. MONA: Who's in bed with who. So to speak. I've been out of the game a long while.

**Panel 5:** Kai trying to lift a huge sword that is much too big for him and almost falling over under the weight.

8. KAI: And if he turns on you?
9. MONA (OFF): I can take him in a fair fight.

**Panel 6:** Kai holding up a tiny knife for Mona's inspection. Mona is holding the boarding axe by the hilt with the part under the blade resting on one shoulder. The curved sword is tucked through her belt on the other side. She looks dangerous and cocky.

10. KAI: And a knife in the back?
11. MONA: That's what I've got you for. Keep an eye on him.

## **EIGHT**

**Panel 1:** Kai is kneeling by the chest of weapons. He is trying on some armor but it reopens the neck wound he got while coming ashore.

NO COPY

**Panel 2:** Mona is crouched next to Kai and has pulled aside the desert wrapping he wears to see the neck wound. His hand is up to stop her but he was too slow. She sees that he has gills on his neck just like the other sea folk.

1. MONA:                                    Let me take a look at that wound...

**Panel 3:** Mona sits back on her heels looking thoughtful.

2. MONA:                                    That explains some things.

3. KAI (OFF):                                Leave it alone.

**Panel 4:** Kai frowns at Mona as he re-wraps his wraps, covering the gills.

4. MONA:                                    Makes other things more confusing.

5. KAI:                                        I said, leave it.

**Panel 5:** She raises an eyebrow, thinking back, putting it together.

6. MONA:                                    But your father was...

7. KAI (OFF):                                Foster father.

**Panel 6:** Mona offers Kai a hand up. Kai looks up at her, not sure if this changes things between them.

8. MONA:                                    Interesting.



## **ONE**

**Panel 1:** In the arena, Mona, Kai, and Jimmy stand in a row. If this was a movie, it'd be a slow mo montage walk. Mona has a curved sword, a boarding axe, leather vambraces, and a leather breastplate. On her back, a small round shield barely seen over her shoulder. Kai has shoulder armor that runs up into neck protection on his left side and carries a metal mesh net in his left hand and the trident in his right. Jimmy wears a mishmash of armor, and four long knives in his belt. He carries a spear and wears a rakish bandana. TWO other armed CAPTIVES stand with them.

NO COPY

**Panel 2:** Wide shot to take in the arena looming tall around them, seats filled with spectators. The group looks small in comparison.

1. SFX: [crowd noise]

**Panel 3:** A giant scorpion, big as a shipping container, is in the middle of the arena. The scorpion is held in place by a long chain hooked to a metal hoop loop affixed to the ground in the center of the arena.

NO COPY

**Panel 4:** Mona leans over to talk to Jimmy.

2. MONA: We're armed. Why don't we just rush the stands?

3. JIMMY: The infused ones can snatch the air right out of your lungs.

**Panel 5:** Wider shot to take in the armed captives standing near the scorpion. Kai leans over to talk to Mona. Mona still leaning to talk to Jimmy.

4. KAI (to Mona): So, what's the plan?

5. MONA (to Jimmy): So, what's the plan?

6. JIMMY: The plan?

## **TWO**

**Panel 1:** Kai, Mona, Jimmy, Captive 1, and Captive 2 start to spread out around the scorpion. Scorpion reaches out its right claw to grab Jimmy.

NO COPY

**Panel 2:** Jimmy rolls out of the way. The Scorpion's claw closes on empty air.

1. SFX: Snikt!

**Panel 3:** Mona has the boarding axe in her right hand and the small round shield in her left hand. She is swinging the axe at the place where that claw connects to the arm but does not connect.

2. MONA: There's no plan, Jimmy?!

**Panel 4:** Jimmy using Captive 1 as a human shield as the scorpion's tail bears down.

3. JIMMY: I never said there was!

**Panel 5:** Captive 1 now speared on the scorpion's tail and being lifted into the air.

4. CAPTIVE 1 (SFX): Ahhh!

**Panel 6:** Mona with shield raised above her head to block the downswing of the scorpion's claw.

5. MONA: I distinctly remember you telling me to have patience. Well, I'm all out!

## **THREE**

**Panel 1:** OUTSKIRTS of the city (think 1800s Tangiers). Kids are crouched under an overturned fishing boat. Two men stand in front of the overturned boat talking.

1. CAPTION: Two hours earlier.
2. MAN 1: Going to the games today? There's a new team.
3. MAN 2: Nah. It always ends the same.

**Panel 2:** Kids climbing up crates stacked against wall of building behind boat. The two men have their backs to them and are still talking.

4. MAN 1: Your problem is you always bet on the underdogs.
5. MAN 2: And I lose every time.

**Panel 3:** Kids on the roof top now. Koa points into the distance where the arena can be seen rising above the rooftops.

6. KOA: I think they were taken to fight in the games.
7. KUKUI: Are you sure?

**Panel 4:** Kids setting off across the rooftops towards the arena.

8. KOA: It's a logical deduction.
9. PAHIWA: A hunch, you mean. We're doomed!

**Panel 5:** Koa on a rooftop further ahead from the others. Pua jumps across the gap into his waiting arms. "Pua talking" telepathically.

10. PUA (MIND): Wheheee!
11. KOA: I'm glad *you're* having fun.

## **FOUR**

**Panel 1:** On the opposite side of the arena from the human cells are the animal cells. Internal view of the kids entering from the bright outside into the hallway with the cells.

NO COPY

**Panel 2:** Kids sneaking. Small in front of cages full of cool looking animals.

1. PAHIWA:                      What are we looking for exactly?

**Panel 3:** Pua stops in front of huge frilled lizard, comparable in size to the scorpion. The rest of the group stops near her.

2. KUKUI:                      Pua?

**Panel 4:** Pua "talking" with the lizard, her hand on its muzzle.

3. PUA:                              Lizard says yes.

**Panel 5:** Pua smiling and facing the others. Lizard has pulled back now, frill flaring, and baring its teeth in a smile.

4. PUA:                              Lizard likes to fight!

## **FIVE**

**Panel 1:** Mona sliding under one of the claws as it snaps over her head, barely missing her.

1. MONA: Kai, try to get it to spear you with its tail.

**Panel 2:** Kai throws the trident towards the scorian's face to distract it.

2. KAI: Are you crazy?

3. MONA (OFF): Trust me!

**Panel 3:** Kai now has the net out and tosses it towards one of the claws, trying to entangle it. He keeps ahold of two edges of the net.

NO COPY

**Panel 4:** Kai still holding on to the net. The scorpion has lifted up his claw so Kai's dangling in the air. Its tail is primed to strike.

4. KAI: Now what?

5. MONA (OFF): Patience!

**Panel 5:** Tail moving to strike Kai dangling in the air. Mona coming in fast from the side with the axe lifted high.

6. MONA: Drop now!

7. KAI (SFX): Ahhh!

**Panel 6:** Mona chops through the carapace right below the tip of tail, severing the tip.

8. SFX: Crunch!

## **SIX**

**Panel 1:** Scorpion rears up in pain. Jimmy comes in with the spear to stab the exposed belly.

1. JIMMY: Jimmy's got you now!

**Panel 2:** Jimmy flying through the air, arms pinwheeling.

2. JIMMY (SFX): Aieeee!

**Panel 3:** The scorpion is on all its legs again. Kai dives in near its legs to recover his trident from the ground. Captive 2 is being lifted in the scorpion's claws. He's done for.

NO COPY

**Panel 4:** Mona standing over Jimmy where he is sprawled on the ground. Her sword is raised ready to defend the next attack but she looks worn out.

NO COPY

**Panel 5:** Kai on his back with the trident raised above him, pointing toward the scorpion's head. His face looks desperate.

3. KAI: Mona!

4. LIZARD (OFF): HISS!

## **SEVEN**

**Panel 1:** Lizard running into battle with its frill expanded. Scorpion turns away from humans to do battle with the lizard.

NO COPY

**Panel 2:** Lizard spits acid goo at the scorpion.

NO COPY

**Panel 3:** Scorpion's carapace is smoking as a hole forms where the goo hit. Scorpion snaps at lizard's front leg with a claw.

NO COPY

**Panel 4:** Kukui gesturing to captives to run toward her at the arena's exit. Mona, Kai, and Jimmy running towards the exit as the two animals continue to battle behind them.

1. KUKUI: Over here! Hurry!
2. MONA: At least somebody had a plan.

## **EIGHT**

**Panel 1:** Two human guards chase Mona, Kai, and Jimmy towards the arena's exit.

NO COPY

**Panel 2:** The three already past them, the kids raise up a line across exit at the ankle level of the approaching guards. Twins on one side of line and Koa and Pua on the other.

NO COPY

**Panel 3:** The guards tripping over the line like a slapstick comedy.

NO COPY

**Panel 4:** The guards fallen to the ground (in the background) as the group (facing us) run for it. The group is all 4 kids, Mona, Kai, and Jimmy.

NO COPY

**Panel 5:** Scene change. The group entering the edge of the jungle where it hits the edge of town.

NO COPY

**Panel 6:** Pan up from where they enter to show the dense jungle and strange hills (see termite mounds, but huge) in the distance (but less than a half day away by foot).

NO COPY





## **TWO**

**Panel 1:** Front view of Jimmy and Mona whacking away at the foliage as they walk. Kai is behind them.

1. JIMMY: Charlie crossed the captain on the last haul.
2. MONA: So, he's dead then.
3. JIMMY: Aye. Leroy's taken the spot. For now.

**Panel 2:** Pua teases Koa. He takes a mock swing at her.

4. PUA: Grampa Koa! Grampa Koa!
5. KOA: I'll show you who's the old man! Come here!

**Panel 3:** Pua runs away laughing against background of dark jungle undergrowth.

6. PUA (SFX): Hahaha!

**Panel 4:** Pua standing in front of same background of dark jungle. Her back is to it and she doesn't see that it is now filled with white eyes.

7. KOA (SFX whisper): *Pua.*

**Panel 5:** Group looking around at the eyes in the undergrowth and it looks like they are surrounded by wild animals.

8. MONA: Don't make any sudden...

**Panel 6:** Jimmy leaping into the air like he just got stung.

9. JIMMY (SFX): Yeow!
10. JIMMY: Something stung me!

## **THREE**

**Panel 1:** Enormous butterflies with white eyes on their wings are startled by the noise and swarm out of the undergrowth.

1. SFX:                               Whoosh!

**Panel 2:** Enormous bloodsucking butterflies start dive bombing the group. The kids are in front now. They are running for it and trying to protect their heads with their arms.

2. SFX:                               Swoosh!

**Panel 3:** Mona and Kai swing their weapons wildly at the butterflies as they run but there are too many of them.

3. SFX:                               Snick!

**Panel 4:** Pua is lying on the ground after tripping. She is turned to look back over her shoulder at a butterfly coming down at her. Jimmy is running up behind the butterfly and it looks like he's coming to save her.

4. PUA (SFX):                       Help!

**Panel 5:** Jimmy has run past Pua and is heading off into the forest by himself leaving Pua lying on the ground behind him.

NO COPY

**Panel 6:** Mona cleaves through the butterfly with her sword and saves Pua.

NO COPY

## **FOUR**

**Panel 1:** Mona, Kai, and the kids exit jungle into savannah at a run. Mona has Pua by one hand and her sword in the other.

NO COPY

**Panel 2:** Small figures running through grass towards a hive that rises up out of the savannah and is at least as large as a castle (see African termite hills).

1. KAI: Look! There's an opening in that mountain.

2. MONA: Have you ever seen a mountain?

**Panel 3:** Kai and Mona running side by side. A few butterflies still dive bombing them.

3. KAI: No.

4. MONA: That's not a mountain. I don't know what that is.

**Panel 4:** They enter the opening to the hive.

5. KUKUI: We made it!

6. PAHIWA: Out of one net and into...

7. KUKUI: Pahiwa!

**Panel 5:** Group now in a tunnel inside the hive. They are standing at a fork in the path. One way looks wider and well-traveled. The other looks narrow, a crevice barely big enough to enter. A light source hangs on a hook on one wall. Mona is poking her head around the corner to see down the wider path.

8. SFX (from wider path): Chitter. Chitter. [small]

**Panel 6:** The last of the group disappear into the crevice as armed female warriors (see female preying mantis but human size) march into view on the wider path. The hook for the light source is now empty.

9. SFX: Chitter. Chitter. [bigger]

## **FIVE**

**Panel 1:** Side view of whole hive showing hexagonal structures above, farther down broken parts of hexagonal structures (see circular hive & side view photos), widening at the bottom into a large open cavern with a structure in it (see outline of Djenne). Part of hive is above ground and the rest is underground. The group (Mona, Kai, and 4 kids) are tiny figures climbing through broken parts and approaching the cavern. Mona is in front holding the light source up.

1. KUKUI:                                We've been walking forever. Is this place bigger on the inside?

**Panel 2:** The group now in huge cavern. In the center are some ancient looking ruins made of mud bricks and coated with mud plaster (see Great Mosque of Djenne). The cavern is lit by a dim glow from bioluminescent moss.

2. KOA:                                    Wow!

3. KAI:                                     You said it.

**Panel 3:** The group very small as it approaches the entry of the ruins.

4. PAHIWA:                                Is this a good idea?

**Panel 4:** Inside the outer wall of the ruins there are many smaller buildings and pathways laid out at different levels. The walls are painted with designs (see website with pics of Tiébélé in Burkina Faso for building structure but painted patterns should be hexagons and spirals instead). Pua is "talking" and pointing towards a building entrance.

5. KOA:                                    Pua says we go this way.

6. MONA:                                  I didn't hear her say anything.

**Panel 5:** Group going down steps into a street among mud buildings (see photos). Kukui is running her hands over the hexagons and spirals painted on the walls.

7. KUKUI:                                 Who made this?

8. SFX (up ahead):                      Chitter. [small]

## **SIX**

**Panel 1:** Mona and Kai looking surprised as they come face to face with two male praying mantis (also surprised, if possible). They are slimmer than females but one (WORKER) is a bit bulkier than the other (SCHOLAR) who is a bit nerdy (if possible).

1. SFX: [exclamation points all around]

2. MONA: Hide kids!

**Panel 2:** Mona, Kai, and Worker square off to fight. Scholar is pulling on shoulder of Worker, trying to defuse the situation. He holds a lamp in his other hand. Pua stands in front of Mona and Kai with her hands up in stop position, "talking" to them.

3. SCHOLAR: No fight!

**Panel 3:** Scholar and Pua facing each other. Scholar is leaning down to talk to Pua.

4. PUA: You are explorers?

5. SCHOLAR: Yes. We search for equality.

**Panel 4:** Now the worker is pulling on the scholar's shoulder.

6. WORKER: Be quiet!

7. SCHOLAR: They are not with Diadem. Diadem kill humans.

**Panel 5:** Groups facing each other. Scholar points to drawings on the wall.

8. SCHOLAR: In past...female and male equal.

9. WORKER: Now we work. They take.

## **SEVEN**

**Panel 1:** They head deeper into the ruins. Worker leads. Scholar and Pua follow with Pua "talking." The other kids after. Mona and Kai at the rear.

1. MONA: Pua can speak mind to mind. Did you know that?
2. KAI: It explains the lizard, I guess.

**Panel 2:** Group in a room with only exit through a hole in the roof. Worker jumps straight up into the hole. Mona and Scholar stand nearby.

3. MONA: Can you take us outside?
4. SCHOLAR: Search first. Then outside.

**Panel 3:** Wide Panel. Group going through different rooms like sidescroller video game.

5. SCHOLAR (Caption): In very far past, males take. Females work.
6. SCHOLAR (Caption): Bad time. War with other hives.

**Panel 4:** Wide Panel. Close up of drawings and glyphs on the walls that show mantis fighting other mantis with weapons. At the end of the art on far right, three mantis grouped together without weapons but holding up small glowing perfume bottles.

7. SCHOLAR (Caption): So many dead, hive dying. Ancient scholars created key.

**Panel 5:** Wide Panel. Group climbing down into rooms like sidescroller video game.

8. SCHOLAR (Caption): Fighting stopped. Male and female rebuild hive. Together.

## **EIGHT**

**Panel 1:** Close up of panel on the wall. Scholar manipulating it.

1. SCHOLAR: I search many moons for key. Bring unity.

**Panel 2:** Panel cover has moved aside and there is a niche behind it. Inside the niche are two old fashioned perfume bottle type things (if made by mantis, of course). They look fragile. One has a glyph for female on it and one has a glyph for male. Scholar is reaching for the one with the female glyph.

2. SCHOLAR: Ancients use pheromone key on both sexes.

**Panel 3:** Scholar holds the bottle now. Worker is reaching for it.

3. Worker: Test it.

4. Scholar: This one for females only.

**Panel 4:** Scholar gently hands bottle to Worker to carry. Mona is looking into the niche at the bottle with the male glyph.

5. MONA: What about this other bottle?

6. WORKER: Females are problem.

7. MONA: For now. Sounds like it used to be the other way.

**Panel 5:** Scholar taking other bottle out of the niche. As he lifts it out, it releases a pressure latch in the niche.

8. SCHOLAR: Correct. Balance is necessary.

9. SFX (from niche): Click



## **ONE**

**Panel 1:** Panel starts to shut. Scholar is holding the male bottle. Kai and Mona look at each other worriedly.

1. KAI:                                    What was that sound?

2. MONA:                                 Trouble.

**Panel 2:** The entire floor starts to tilt and they all lose their balance. Scholar holds male bottle in one hand and light in the other. Worker holds female bottle. Mona holds a light.

3. PAHIWA:                            I told you this was a bad idea.

4. KUKUI:                               No, you didn't.

5. PAHIWA:                            Yes, I did.

**Panel 3:** The group start to slide down floor that is sharply tilted to the right. A few have already slid off the right hand side and into the darkness below. Mona is reaching out her hand to try to grab Kai's hand.

6. MONA:                                Kai!

**Panel 4:** Koa is sliding on his stomach and reaching out to try to grab Pua before she goes over the edge but he is too far away.

NO COPY

**Panel 5:** Pua falling through the air. She seems to be enjoying herself. Koa is falling after her, arms pinwheeling.

NO COPY



## **THREE**

**Panel 1:** Scholar sets Worker down heavily on the shore.

1. WORKER:                      Uff!

**Panel 2:** Scholar lands next to Worker and almost falls over with fatigue. Worker supports him and stops him from falling.

2. WORKER:                      *You saved me.*

**Panel 3:** The insects smile at each other and both hold out the respective bottles to show each other they still have them.

3. MONA (OFF):                Hey, bug guys! A little help here?

**Panel 4:** Wide panel of the group strung out single file making their way into a higher area with some hexagonal hive structures. They are all dripping wet (except bug guys) and look disgruntled (except Pua). Scholar and Worker are in the lead. Scholar has Mona's light.

4. PAHIWA:                      How far to the surface?

5. KOA:                              Five minutes closer than the last time you asked.

6. KUKUI:                        I'm hungry.

## **FOUR**

**Panel 1:** As the group gets near the hive exit, three female mantis warriors appear from a side corridor.

1. SFX: Chitter!

2. MONA (whisper): Hide!

**Panel 2:** Male mantis both use camouflage to hide but the humans can only stand still and hope. It doesn't work. One of the female warriors calls out to the others.

3. WARRIOR: Diadem on me! Intruders!

**Panel 3:** Mona, Kai, and Koa engage two of the warriors. Worker leaps high into the air to attack the third warrior. Scholar is half camouflaged and half visible. He can't decide what to do.

NO COPY

**Panel 4:** Mona wrestles with one of the female warriors and the warrior clicks her mandibles close to Mona's face. Worker has landed behind them and is holding the female bottle.

NO COPY

## **FIVE**

**Panel 1:** Worker raises up the female bottle of pheromone to use it. Scholar puts out his hands up in a “stop” movement.

1. SCHOLAR:                      No! Don't!

**Panel 2:** Mona has thrown off the mantis warrior and the warrior knocks into Worker as she lands.

NO COPY

**Panel 3:** The female bottle goes flying out of Worker's hand. The group watch it fly by.

NO COPY

**Panel 4:** The bottle has landed at Scholar's feet and broken open. The pheromone rises up out of the broken bottle and surrounds Scholar. He looks worried.

NO COPY

**Panel 5:** The female warriors are now *very* interested in Scholar and gather around him. In the background, the human group runs towards the hive exit. Worker stays behind.

NO COPY

## **SIX**

**Panel 1:** Group has just come out of the edge of the jungle and they are facing a small cove. In the cove is a boat (ketch) at anchor. At the railing of the boat is Jimmy who is waving at them. This boat looks a little beat up but it is bigger than the one they lost. You'd need at least three people to sail it, maybe more.

1. JIMMY: Ahoy! What took you lot so long?

**Panel 2:** Kai and Mona look at each other, eyebrows raised. Kai shrugs.

NO COPY

**Panel 3:** The group now all stand on the deck of the boat. Jimmy gestures grandly like he created it out of thin air. Mona looks at him skeptically.

2. MONA: Where's the crew, Jimmy?

**Panel 4:** Jimmy waving the kids down below decks to the food pantry. Kids following happily while Kai and Mona stay on deck.

3. JIMMY: All here! And hungry I bet!

4. KUKUI: Starving!

**Panel 5:** Kai and Mona on deck with their heads together talking.

5. KAI: What happened to the old crew?

6. MONA: Nothing good.

7. KAI: Jimmy?

8. MONA: Or scorpions. Or butterflies. This isn't the safest island.

## **SEVEN**

**Panel 1:** Kai and Mona on deck talking and scoping it out.

1. KAI:                                      This isn't a one man ship.
2. MONA:                                    Explains why he's so happy to see us.

**Panel 2:** Kids come back out on deck with their hands and mouths full of food. Koa hands some food to Kai and Mona.

NO COPY

**Panel 3:** Kai shows Kukui and Pahiwa how to get the ropes wound properly.

3. KAI:                                      Like this. You don't want to trip over it.

**Panel 4:** Mona shows Koa how to untie the sails and get ready to head out to open water.

4. MONA:                                    Release that rope and pass it under.

**Panel 5:** Pua stands behind the helm (steering wheel) grinning widely and wearing a captain's hat that is much too big for her.

NO COPY





**ONE**

**Panel 1:** NIGHT. The stars fill the huge sky with the ship small below.

NO COPY

**Panel 2:** On deck, the kids are sitting around, looking sad. They are lounging in the coiled rope, sitting on barrels. Pua is sitting on the deck cross-legged. A tear runs down her cheek. Kai is at the helm in the background.

1. PUA: Do you think my mom is ok?

2. KOA: I bet she's thinking about you right now.

**Panel 3:** The kids are all looking sad and thoughtful. This is the first time they've had to breathe since they left their parents. In the background, Jimmy comes out on deck.

3. PAHIWA: I hope they didn't get punished.

4. KUKUI: I hope they came up with a good lie.

**Panel 4:** Jimmy stands near the kids now and motions them to move closer and pay attention to his tale.

5. JIMMY: Buck up, you're pirates now! There's no better life. Gather round and Jimmy will tell you a tale.

## **TWO**

**Panel 1:** Large panel. Right in the middle of a big sea battle between the Bastard Saint and the Fang.

1. JIMMY (narrator):           The Queen's Hounds had been on the trail of the Bastard Saint for days.

**Panel 2:** Water level view of the ships huge above and firing cannons at each other.

2. SFX:                            Boom! Boom!

**Panel 3:** Pirates are ready in the rigging to swing across and board the Hound's ship. One of the pirates is Mona and she has smoke rising up around her from the battle below. She looks badass. Stan (from Scene 2) is in the rigging near her.

3. JIMMY (narrator):           She lived up to the name that day. Smoke Tiger.

## **THREE**

**Panel 1:** Pirates, including Mona and Old Bill, swinging across from the Bastard Saint to board the Fang. OLD BILL is short, stout, and balding (see Bob Hoskins). He carries a large bag slung on his back.

NO COPY

**Panel 2:** Pirates are now on the deck of the Fang and engaged in battle. Mona is sword fighting a Hound in the background. In the foreground, Rita (from Scene 2) fires a musket.

NO COPY

**Panel 3:** Cannons fire and people go flying. Smoke and noise.

1. SFX: Boom!

**Panel 4:** Jimmy doing a perfect sword lunge but can't see if he actually hit anyone.

2. JIMMY (narrator): The sun flashed off my sword like god's will incarnate.

## **FOUR**

**Panel 1:** Jimmy firing with a musket in each hand, John Woo style. It looks over the top, so you start to think maybe he's embellishing a bit.

1. JIMMY (narrator): I made many a woman a widow that day.

**Panel 2:** Huge Hound swinging an axe at Mona. She drops to the ground to avoid it.

NO COPY

**Panel 3:** Mona stabs her attacker in the foot with a dagger and pins him to the floor.

2. JIMMY (narrator): Mona helped.

**Panel 4:** Old Bill on the deck of the Fang, sneaking towards the hatch to go below decks. He still carries the large bag.

NO COPY

## **FIVE**

**Panel 1:** Wide view of the two ships in battle with smoke all around. Both have taken some damage.

1. JIMMY (narrator):           The plan was solid.

**Panel 2:** Old Bill is in the hold putting together a big screw with a huge crank handle for boring into the wood of the Fang's hull when his eye is caught by three rich looking chests grouped together in the corner.

2. JIMMY (narrator):           A hole in the hull would slow them down.

**Panel 3:** Mona in a fight with two attackers, grinning wildly. She has a sword in one hand and a dagger in the other. Carlos (from Scene 2) can be seen in the background.

3. JIMMY (narrator):           We were just there to buy time.

**Panel 4:** Old Bill with one of the chests open, reflected light shining on his smiling face.

4. JIMMY (narrator):           But Old Bill went off script.

## **SIX**

**Panel 1:** Back up on deck, cannon balls tear up the rigging around Old Bill as he lowers one of the Hounds' rowboats into the water.

NO COPY

**Panel 2:** Mona fighting side-by-side with the Bastard Saint's Captain, both bleeding and smiling. Torn sails and shattered rigging are all around them. The CAPTAIN has shaggy dark hair and a close cropped beard. He'd be handsome if he wasn't always scowling (see Ares from Xena). This is the only time we see him not scowling.

1. JIMMY (Narrator):           It's the last time I saw Mona and the Captain in total agreement.

**Panel 3:** Pirates and Hounds fighting on deck. Jimmy doing something heroic looking but highly unlikely.

2. JIMMY (Narrator):           *[Very heroic description]*

3. KUKUI (OFF):                *[Calls him on it]*

**Panel 4:** Pirates and Hounds fighting on deck. Jimmy doing something much less heroic.

4. JIMMY (Narrator):           *[Less heroic, but more likely, description]*

## **SEVEN**

**Panel 1:** Low shot of Old Bill in the foreground rowing away with the two ships behind him wreathed in smoke. One of the rich looking chests is in the rowboat with him.

1. JIMMY (Narrator):           When he lit out, the whole thing fell apart.

**Panel 2:** Blood and bodies from both sides all over the Fang's deck.

2. PAHIWA (OFF):           Who won?

3. JIMMY (Narrator):       Nobody.

**Panel 3:** Battered ships separated from each other and limping in opposite directions.

4. JIMMY (Narrator):       Don't worry. It's got a happy ending.

**Panel 4:** Old Bill dead at a table with a stack of gold doubloons in front of him. He has a dagger hilt deep in one eye.

5. JIMMY (Narrator):       Our Mona tracked Bill down and taught him the error of his ways.

**Panel 5:** Back on deck with Jimmy and the kids. But the focus is on Kai's face in reaction to the story's ending. He's clearly upset.

NO COPY

## **EIGHT**

**Panel 1:** Kai is sitting on the edge of the ship with his legs hanging off the side and his arms on a lower railing or rope. Mona comes out of the shadows behind him.

1. MONA:                               The crew thought I had the right of it.
2. KAI:                                    But, he was your friend.

**Panel 2:** Mona sitting next to Kai now, legs dangling.

3. MONA:                                Aye, he was. But I had the rest of the crew to think of. It was a necessary evil to keep up morale.

**Panel 3:** Wide panel. Big sky of stars over them as they sit small, looking up.

4. MONA:                                Off Carsa, we followed a tip and boarded a merchant ship full of rich cargo. When we opened the cargo hold, it was full of slaves. Rich, to be sure, but pirates never deal in live cargo. Too messy. The captain ordered them all killed. Just like that. I left soon after.

**Panel 4:** Closer shot of them talking. She's looking out to sea. He's looking at her.

5. KAI:                                    Did you miss it?
6. MONA:                                Every damn day.



## **ONE**

**Panel 1:** Huge bird of prey flying with man dangling upside down from talons (see roc scene in 7<sup>th</sup> Voyage of Sinbad but only one head). The man (INO) is bare chested and wears tattered shorts. His long hair is in a ponytail and he looks Hawaiian.

NO COPY

**Panel 2:** Focus on Ino struggling but clasped tight in the talons.

1. INO (SFX):                      Help!

**Panel 3:** Jimmy's ship is at anchor in a small cove. On deck, Mona throws a small boarding axe.

NO COPY

**Panel 4:** The bird is startled when the axe hits and drops the man into the water near Jimmy's ship.

2. BIRD (SFX):                      Caw!

**Panel 5:** Kai and Koa are in the water by the stunned man and helping him to shore.

NO COPY

## **TWO**

**Panel 1:** Ino is now on the deck of Jimmy's ship. He has a blanket around his shoulders. The group gathers around him.

1. INO: I am Ino. My village is nearby. You must come feast with us.

**Panel 2:** On deck, Mona looks at Kai for his opinion. Ino sits nearby.

2. KAI: We do need provisions before we go any further.

3. INO: Yes. Yes. Come and we will provide what we can.

**Panel 3:** The group is walking through the scrub brush along the coastal road (think 1700s Hawaii). Ino leads the way. Jimmy brings up the rear.

4. INO: The great bird, the pouakai, has been coming down from the heights to take our animals. Then a child went missing.

**Panel 4:** The group reaches the outskirts of the village. Jimmy sneaks off while the others are focused on Ino's story.

5. INO: I laid in wait to kill it, but it was too wily. I was almost its next meal.

**Panel 5:** Ino leaves the group to wait under a banyan tree. Koa leans over towards Pua. Mona is looking around.

6. INO: I will get the elders.

7. KOA: Pua, do you know Uncle's story of the golden eagle?

8. MONA: Where's Jimmy?



## **FOUR**

**Panel 1:** Koa nears the edge of a huge bird's nest high on the hill.

NO COPY

**Panel 2:** The huge bird has popped its head up out of the nest and catches sight of Koa. Koa faces the bird unafraid.

NO COPY

**Panel 3:** Koa takes off running back down the hill towards the pool.

NO COPY

**Panel 4:** Koa is nearing the bottom of the hill but the bird is closing in on him with its talons outstretched. The wind from its wings flattens the tall dry grasses around him.

1. SF: Crack!

## **FIVE**

**Panel 1:** Mona, Kai, Ino, and the villagers are hidden in the pool under the saplings with their spears ready. Light stripes their faces as it comes in the spaces between saplings.

1. VILLAGER 1:                      This plan is crazy.
2. INO:                                      You want to bet on it?

**Panel 2:** Focus on Mona and Kai in the water with the villagers.

3. KAI:                                      My foster father sold fish at the night market on Soma. He found me onboard when he was sailing home one day.

**Panel 3:** Mona looking at Kai. Kai watching the sky through the spaces between the saplings.

4. KAI:                                      His dead husband was desert folk. Father used his old wraps to hide my gills and taught me to keep my head down. An escaped slave always risks reclamation.

**Panel 4:** Mona nodding understandingly. Kai has a wry smile on his face.

5. MONA:                                  So that's why you didn't throw me overboard?
6. KAI:                                      That, and you've got 10 stone on me.
7. MONA:                                  10 stone! I ought to wallop you!

**Panel 5:** Koa running, now just steps from the pool with the bird in flight right behind him, talons outstretched to grab him.

8. KOA (SFX):                          Make...

## **SIX**

**Panel 1:** The bird reaches for Koa just as Koa reaches the edge of the pool and dives.

1. KOA (SFX):                      ...a hole!

**Panel 2:** Koa dives into a small hole the villagers have made in between the saplings.

NO COPY

**Panel 3:** The bird sticks its feet into the hole to get at Koa.

NO COPY

**Panel 4:** The villagers push the logs together so they close on bird's legs, trapping it.

NO COPY

## **SEVEN**

**Panel 1:** Mona, in the pool, is stabbing a spear from below up through a space between the saplings and into the body of the bird.

NO COPY

**Panel 2:** From above, the bird struggles to free itself from the trap. Spears are sticking up from the pool at angles to hit the bird.

1. SFX: Caw! Crack!

**Panel 3:** In the water, Kai moves fast to narrowly avoid a razor sharp claw.

NO COPY

**Panel 4:** The villagers stabbing the bird from underneath with their spears.

2. VILLAGER 1: I can't believe this worked!

3. INO: You can pay me tomorrow.

**Panel 5:** NIGHT. The villagers celebrate on the beach in front of the village. A huge bird leg turns on a spit over a fire.

NO COPY

## **EIGHT**

**Panel 1:** Villagers are celebrating in the background. Koa, Pahiwa, Kukui, and Pua gather around Mona.

1. KOA:                               The villagers have offered to let us stay here.
2. KUKUI:                            What he means is, they were so impressed with Koa's bravery that they're letting the rest of us tag along.

**Panel 2:** Pua hugs Mona around the waist and Mona looks startled. Pahiwa awkwardly holds out his hand to Mona to shake.

3. PUA:                                We'll miss you, Mona!
4. PAHIWA:                         Thank you.

**Panel 3:** Kai walks up beside Mona. She looks forlorn.

5. MONA:                            Kai...I...
6. KAI:                                No awkward goodbyes. I'm coming with *you*.

**Panel 4:** Ino and a village wise woman have come to say thank you to Mona and Kai. Woman hands Mona a small gourd with a stopper and a string wrapped around its neck.

7. INO:                                We cannot thank you enough.
8. MONA:                            Just take good care of the kids.
9. WOMAN:                         A gift. The strength of an animal.

**Panel 5:** Mona hangs the gourd from her belt while Kukui hugs Mona on the other side. Mona still looks confused by this whole hugging thing. Kai and Koa do a one-armed bro embrace while Pua holds onto Kai's other hand and looks up at him like she'll miss him.

10. KUKUI:                         Can I keep your long knife?
11. MONA:                         If you practice the drills I showed you.
12. KUKUI:                         Of course! I'm training to be a pirate when I grow up.



**ONE**

**Panel 1:** Kai and Mona are back on Jimmy's boat. They are sitting at the table below decks trying to decide on next steps.

1. KAI:                                    So, deeper into the archipelago or double back?
2. MONA:                                 It depends. Is the goal treasure or obscurity?

**Panel 2:** Mona has her half of the map out on the table. She is pointing to a coastline near where it is torn. The coastline has a bunch of small islands (see Ha Long Bay map).

3. MONA:                                 We haven't seen anything like these tiny islands yet.
4. KAI:                                    But we still need the other half of the map.

**Panel 3:** Mona tucks the map into her shirt grinning. Kai looks worried.

5. KAI:                                    Please don't say you have a plan.
6. MONA:                                 You love my plans.

**Panel 4:** Mona and Kai were starting to stand but are thrown off balance when the Bastard Saint attacks. The gourd is still hanging from Mona's belt.

7. MONA:                                 But first we need to take on another hand or...
8. SFX:                                    Boom!

## **TWO**

**Panel 1:** Mona and Kai spill out onto the deck looking for the source of the noise. They are both unarmed. Smoke billows.

NO COPY

**Panel 2:** At least five pirates from the Bastard Saint are boarding their ship. This includes Stan, Carlos, and Rita (from Scene 2) plus two other crew members. One of them, the new First Mate, is a big guy with a shaved head and a beard (LEROY). The other is tall and skinny (LINK).

NO COPY

**Panel 3:** Pirates surround Mona and Kai, brandishing weapons. Mona grabs a boat hook (long wooden pole with metal hook on end) and Kai grabs a small fishing net.

1. STAN: Put those down. We just want the map.

**Panel 4:** Mona swings the boat hook in a wide circle at the surrounding pirates, forcing them all to jump back.

2. STAN: Come on!

**Panel 5:** Kai throws the net at Leroy's head. In the background, Mona blocks the swing from Rita's saber with the wood of the boat hook.

NO COPY



## **FOUR**

**Panel 1:** Mona beats her gorilla chest and roars. [NOTE: This whole fight can play out differently, as long as it ends with Mona and Kai getting captured and no pirate gets too hurt.]

1. SFX:                                       Roar!

**Panel 2:** Mona wades into the surrounding pirates. Carlos backpedals away from her but Link is too slow and she grabs him.

2. CARLOS:                                  What the...?

3. LINK:                                        Mona?!

**Panel 3:** Kai uses his front legs to lift him up and pushes Leroy off balance with his middle and hind legs. Leroy's head and shoulders are still wrapped up in the fishing net and he starts to fall backwards.

4. BIG PIRATE:                              Whoa!

**Panel 4:** Mona has thrown Link into the air and his trajectory is going to take him over the side and into the water.

5. SFX:                                        Ahhh!

## **FIVE**

**Panel 1:** Kai starts rolling a second barrel with his middle and hind legs. The first barrel has already been rolled and knocked down a pirate.

NO COPY

**Panel 2:** Mona lifts a barrel over her head like Donkey Kong.

NO COPY

**Panel 3:** Mona throws the barrel at Stan. Stan is looking up at it frozen.

NO COPY

**Panel 4:** Close up of Stan's face.

1. STAN: Oh, come on...

## **SIX**

**Panel 1:** Kai is in front of Leroy who is lying on his back and still struggling to get the fishing net off of his head. Kai starts to roll Leroy's legs up over his head.

1. LEROY: Hey!

**Panel 2:** Close up of Leroy emerging from the net. His legs are up against his chest and his feet over his head. Kai is trying to push them further.

2. LEROY: I don't fold this way!

**Panel 3:** Mona coming at Carlos with one shoulder forward and her knuckles pushing her off the ground.

NO COPY

**Panel 4:** Mona hits Carlos with her shoulder like a lineman blocking and he goes flying.

3. CARLOS: Whoa!

## **SEVEN**

**Panel 1:** Potion runs out and Mona reverts to human while holding Carlos over her head.

1. SFX: Poof!
2. MONA: Oh, my back!

**Panel 2:** Potion runs out for Kai. He is balanced on his arms and is using his legs to try to roll Leroy's legs up over his head. Kai looks embarrassed.

3. KAI: Um, sorry.

**Panel 3:** Mona and Kai are standing now with their hands up in surrender. The pirates surround them with weapons out.

4. JIMMY (OFF): They had orders not to damage you.

**Panel 4:** Jimmy emerges from behind Leroy looking slightly sheepish and shrugging his shoulders. Kai is angry but Mona looks like she expected Jimmy's betrayal.

5. KAI: Jimmy, you traitor!
6. JIMMY: Stop fighting and you're perfectly safe. There's a bounty on you.
7. MONA: You mean they'll sell me to the crown to hang.

**Panel 5:** Jimmy leans conspiratorially towards the two of them, speaking quietly.

8. JIMMY: That's as may be. But, the way I figure it, between now and the noose, you've got a long journey.

## **EIGHT**

**Panel 1:** Pirates on both sides of the circle step aside to give the Bastard Saint's CAPTAIN wide berth as he joins them.

1. CAPTAIN:                      Stop your coddling and bind her hands tight.

**Panel 2:** Carlos is behind Mona tying her hands. She is pulling against the restraint and pushing her face towards the Captain aggressively.

2. MONA:                        You lily-livered, cod swallowing, pathetic excuse for a...

**Panel 3:** Close up of Mona and the Captain facing off.

3. CAPTAIN:                      Shut your trap or I'll gut you like...

4. MONA:                        ...like Charlie?

**Panel 4:** Captain wraps his hand around Mona's throat. Jimmy pulls on his shoulder from behind. Mona faces the Captain defiantly.

5. CAPTAIN:                      You should never have left me.

6. JIMMY:                        Captain, we only get paid if she's alive!

**Panel 5:** Mona and Kai, both with hands tied behind their backs, are being pulled away from each other and moved towards the edge of the boat to be loaded onto the Bastard Saint. Mona looks stoic. Kai looks worried.

7. KAI:                            Mona!



## **ONE**

**Panel 1:** The Queen's Hounds (white sails with a blood red crown) pull up alongside the Bastard Saint (black sails) for a prisoner exchange. See photos.

NO COPY

**Panel 2:** The two crews are lined up along the rail on their respective ships, giving each other the evil eye.

NO COPY

**Panel 3:** Standing on the deck of the Bastard Saint, Jimmy holds Kai in a tight grip as Kai struggles.

1. JIMMY:                                 Settle down. It will soon be over.

2. KAI:                                     You said we had time!

**Panel 4:** The Saint's captain shouts over to the Hound's captain and waves theatrically.

3. CAPTAIN:                             I'll see if our guest is awake and ready to travel.

## **TWO**

**Panel 1:** The captain and Leroy move to go below decks. The captain is leading.

1. CAPTAIN:                      Come along, Leroy.

**Panel 2:** Leroy turns back and gives the nod for two big pirates to follow him.

NO COPY

**Panel 3:** The pirates go back to evil eyeing the Hounds. One of the pirates starts prepping a musket and his friend is making hand gestures telling him to take it easy.

NO COPY

**Panel 4:** Kai struggles in Jimmy's arms and shouts at the pirates.

2. KAI:                              How could you sell her to the law? You're pirates!

## **THREE**

**Panel 1:** Leroy comes back out on deck followed by the two big pirates carrying a large trunk between them. The trunk has a metal chain wrapped around it.

1. LEROY:                              Get the hoist ready!

**Panel 2:** The big pirates rig the trunk to the hook on the hoist (yard & stay) by the metal chain.

NO COPY

**Panel 3:** The hoist is in the air carrying the trunk hooked to it and swinging the trunk over the water between the two ships.

2. LEROY:                              Careful now, boys! Delicate cargo.

**Panel 4:** The two ships side by side. The trunk is deposited on the Hounds' ship. Leroy calls out to the Hound's captain.

3. LEROY:                              She'll be out for a while. We maybe thumped her too hard.

## **FOUR**

**Panel 1:** The Hound's captain gives his men a signal as they lift the trunk.

1. HOUND'S CAPTAIN:        Carry that filth below! And tie the bounty purse to the hook.

**Panel 2:** The pirates watch the Queen's Hounds as it sails away. Leroy waves at the departing ship. He holds a fat coin purse in the other hand.

2. LEROY:                      Pleasure doing business with you mongrels!

**Panel 3:** As the ship recedes into the distance, Kai is still yelling.

3. SFX:                         [swearing]

4. MONA (off):                Really, where did you learn such language?

**Panel 4:** Kai turned to see Mona emerging from below decks in full pirate regalia, including a plumed hat, but no weapons. Kai gapes at her.

5. KAI:                         What?!

**Panel 5:** Mona standing in front of Leroy, holding out her half of the map.

6. MONA:                      This concludes my part of the deal.

## **FIVE**

**Panel 1:** Leroy waves a hand to direct some pirates near the side of the ship. The opposite side of the ship from where the Hounds were.

1. LEROY: Drop a line down to their boat.

**Panel 2:** Mona and Kai are at the side of the ship looking down at their boat below. The pirate's COOK, a Scottish looking guy, stands on one side and hands Mona a jar.

2. COOK: I made this up special for you. Pickled eels.

3. MONA: My favorite!

**Panel 3:** Another pirate hands Mona a weapons belt with a sword, knife, and two muskets on it. Kai in the background looks disgruntled.

4. MONA: Thank you, Smithy. How's your Mary doing?

5. SMITHY: She's fixin' to join the crew of the Flaming Skull next year.

**Panel 4:** Mona and Kail sitting on the railing, about to go over the side. Mona is wearing the weapons belt and has the jar of eels tucked into her shirt.

6. MONA: Pleasure doing business with you bastards.

## **SIX**

**Panel 1:** Low view looking up at all the pirates lined up at the rail, waving down. Mona waving, shouts up from Jimmy's boat below.

1. MONA (OFF):                      Three cheers for the new captain!

**Panel 2:** On deck, the pirates all turn to face Leroy and cheer their new captain.

2. PIRATES:                      Captain Leroy!

**Panel 3:** Large view of the pirate ship leaving their small boat in its wake.

NO COPY

## **SEVEN**

**Panel 1:** Mona and Kai on the boat deck facing each other. She's pleased. He's not.

1. KAI:                                 Apparently you had a plan.

2. MONA:                                Uh hum.

**Panel 2:** Mona starts to get the sails ready while Kai gives her the eye.

3. KAI:                                 Which you didn't see fit to share.

4. MONA:                                You played your part perfectly.

**Panel 3:** She keeps working and he keeps glaring.

5. KAI:                                 The captain was in the trunk.

6. MONA:                                That ship was just ripe for a mutiny.

**Panel 4:** Mona gestures to the rigging.

7. MONA:                                A little help here? This is going to be hard enough with only two of us.

## **EIGHT**

**Panel 1:** Kai starts to help getting the boat ready to sail.

1. KAI: You gave them your half of the map.
2. MONA: My original half, yes.

**Panel 2:** She takes off her pirate hat with a flourish.

3. MONA: But the captain kept the other half in his old hiding spot. Tsk tsk.

**Panel 3:** She turns the hat upside down and shows him a complete copy of both halves of the map tucked inside.

4. MONA: I was able to copy both pieces while I was waiting below decks.

**Panel 4:** Close up of the map tucked in the hat. Shows the coastline like Ha Long Bay and, where the map was ripped before, there is now more coastline including an X.

5. MONA (OFF): We're going to need a smaller boat.





## **TWO**

**Panel 1:** Kai swimming away from the Bastard Saint with a rope around his chest as he drags the floating chest behind him.

NO COPY

**Panel 2:** The pirates on shore drinking and reveling around a bonfire. Jimmy grins wildly while playing bongo drums.

PIRATES: [song lyrics]

**Panel 3:** Mona sneaking around below decks, muttering to herself as she searches.

MONA: Where's your bunk at, Jimmy?

**Panel 4:** Mona hides to avoid one of the pirates left to keep guard.

NO COPY

**Panel 5:** Mona finds what she was looking for wrapped up in cloth in Jimmy's hammock. It's Jimmy's spyglass.

NO COPY

## **THREE**

**Panel 1:** Mona standing on the edge of the ship where Kai went down earlier. She has the spyglass in a leather case strung crossways across her chest.

NO COPY

**Panel 2:** A guard rounds the corner and spots her standing there.

1. GUARD:                      Hey!

**Panel 3:** Mona dives overboard.

NO COPY

**Panel 4:** Mona swimming away from the ship. A musket ball hits the water next to her.

2. SFX:                              Splash!

**Panel 5:** Mona swims off course to avoid the light cast on the waves by the ship's windows. The guard is still firing at her.

3. SFX:                              Bang!

## **FOUR**

**Panel 1:** Mona swimming in the water and avoiding the cast light. She hears a strange sound.

1. SFX: SWAP!

**Panel 2:** Mona pushes her hair out of her eyes, looking for the source of the sound.

2. SFX: THRUMM!

**Panel 3:** Mona looks back at the Bastard Saint and sees its mast start to crack and fall. Something metal with jagged spikes is wrapped around the mast where it is breaking.

3. SFX: CRACK!

**Panel 4:** Mona looking panicked as the mast starts to fall towards her.

NO COPY

**Panel 5:** Mona swimming to avoid the falling mast.

NO COPY

## **FIVE**

**Panel 1:** Suddenly the water near the Bastard Saint is on fire. Tiny floating objects can be seen in the water that are the source of the fire. They are little boats filled with oil.

NO COPY

**Panel 2:** Mona in the water and surrounded by fire. One of the fire flowers floats close to her and she realizes what's happening.

1. MONA:                                  Fire flowers!

**Panel 3:** The huge black shadow of a ship looms like a cut out against the night sky. It is Lady Shang's ship (a Chinese junk) and it is blocking the Bastard Ship in. Fire arrows arc up from the deck of Shang's ship and down towards the little oil filled boats.

2. MONA (OFF):                          Lady Shang!

**Panel 4:** View from underwater looking up at Mona as she swims under the fire and away from the Bastard Saint.

NO COPY

## SIX

**Panel 1:** Mona swimming. The falling mast is suddenly above her.

NO COPY

**Panel 2:** Kai is there, pulling her out of the way. His desert wrappings are off and his gills are visible. It was the only way to get here fast enough to help her.

NO COPY

**Panel 3:** Kai swimming hard and pulling Mona to safety as she coughs violently.

NO COPY

**Panel 4:** Mona and Kai are near a spit of land down the coast from the bonfire. The trunk is dragged up on the spit. They are still hip deep in water, watching the ship burn.

1. MONA:   She sends little boats full of oil floating towards her victims.

## **SEVEN**

**Panel 1:** The Bastard Saint is on fire but still salvageable. Shang isn't trying to scuttle it.

1. KAI:                               Then she uses fire arrows to light the oil. Ingenious.
2. MONA:                            I don't think the Saint's crew is so appreciative.

**Panel 2:** Most of the Saint's crew is on land watching their ship burn.

3. KAI:                               Will the Saint survive?
4. MONA:                            It will need repairs, but the fire is more shock and awe.

**Panel 3:** The huge bulk of Lady Shang's pirate ship blocks the harbor entrance.

5. KAI:                               And the crew?
6. MONA:                            She'll make them an offer.

**Panel 4:** Mona and Kai climb out of the water onto the spit of land. The trunk sits there waiting for them.

7. KAI:                               So Lady Shang walks away with the treasure.
8. MONA:                            And the crew sail away with their lives. A fair trade.

## **EIGHT**

**Panel 1:** Mona and Kai carry the trunk between them as they stagger up the other side of the spit to where they hid their new sloop.

1. KAI: How did she take down the mast? I heard a strange noise...
2. MONA: The Reaping. It throws a barbed chain that wraps the mast, weakens it, and takes it down under its own weight.

**Panel 2:** On the deck of the sloop, Mona kneels by the trunk and Kai stands behind her.

3. KAI: Did you know she was tracking us?
4. MONA: No. But, Shang's always two steps ahead.

**Panel 3:** Mona kneeling before the now open trunk, grinning. Kai looks over her shoulder, confused.

5. KAI: Sails?
6. MONA: Not just any sails. These were made by the ancients who built the floating islands.
7. KAI: You don't mean...?

**Panel 4:** The sloop is now fitted out with a crazy looking set of sails. A little bit kite, a little bit steampunk. The ship is flying up into the sky. Mona is at the helm and Kai is in the bow with Jimmy's spy glass pointed towards a floating island far in the distance.

NO COPY