



*He was dead—and it was not a good feeling.*

Ragetti came out of the water first. Elizabeth, Will, Gibbs, and Tia Dalma were close behind, with Cotton, Marty, Tai Huang and his men, and finally Barbossa.

Gibbs looked up and down the long, empty beach. “This is a terrible place,” he said.

Elizabeth pushed her wet hair away from her face. She looked worried, too. “I can’t see Jack,” she said. “I can’t see anyone.”

“He’s here, somewhere,” said Barbossa.

Tia Dalma smiled. “Jack is nearer than you think,” she said.

Elizabeth looked past Tia Dalma. Something was moving across the sand. It was the *Black Pearl*! Captain Jack Sparrow

stood proudly by the ship’s wheel. Thousands of crabs carried the *Pearl* closer, then they dropped it into the water.

Jack waved to his men. “Gibbs! Pintel and you—the man with one eye,” he cried. “Did the Kraken kill you, too?”

Elizabeth ran up to Jack and put her arms around him. “I’m so sorry,” she said in a low voice. “I’m so glad you’re all right—”

But Jack pushed her away. “Tia Dalma! How nice to see you!”

“How are you, Jack Sparrow?” Barbossa’s voice came from the back of the crowd.

Jack stopped. He turned, and saw his old enemy. “Barbossa!” he shouted loudly. “I haven’t seen you for a long time, since—”

“*Isla de Muerta*, remember?” Barbossa said. “You shot me!”

“Yes,” Jack said, nervously. “I remember.”

“We came to help you,” Barbossa said.

“That’s very kind of you,” Jack said. “But I have a ship, and you don’t. *You* need help, not me.”

Barbossa pointed at the *Pearl*. “My ship is there,” he said.

Jack looked at the ocean. “I can’t see it,” he said. “Is it hidden somewhere behind the *Pearl*?”

Barbossa was very angry. He wanted to attack Jack, but Will stopped him.

“Jack, listen!” Will said urgently. “Cutler Beckett has Davy Jones’s heart. He commands the *Flying Dutchman*.”

“He wants to command the oceans,” Elizabeth added.

“We’re calling the Brethren Court,” Tia Dalma told him.

“Yes, Jack,” Gibbs said. “The world needs you.”

“And you need sailors,” Will said. He pointed at the pirates.

Jack studied them. “Do I *want* to sail with you?” he asked.

“Three of you tried to kill me.” He stopped in front of Elizabeth.

“And one of you succeeded.”

Will was surprised. What was Jack saying? Did Elizabeth kill him?

Jack smiled. “She hasn’t told you?” he said. He turned to Tia Dalma. “All right, you can come with me. Gibbs, Marty,