

Petteri Hannila, Fantasy, History, Approachable, English, Sipi Myllynen

The Red Mist

Survivors of pirates and Spanish galleon clash in the shores of a mysterious island.



The galleon was heavily armed, yet it didn't have the slightest change. Three smaller pirate vessels pounded it with their merciless cannons, until the Spanish captain was forced to flag for surrender.

During the ordeal a strong wind drove the ships into a heavy mist. Events that followed are somewhat a blur, yet most of the survivors think that the ships crashed onto rocks and tipped over. True or false, only a dozen men survived and made it through the waves to the shore.

There they laid, gasping for air on a desolate beach. Silhouette of the great, fallen galleon could be seen dimly through the mist, like a reminder of the vast riches it still might bore in its insides. Inland their weary eyes could observe a thick jungle surrounding a dark mountaintop. Somehow looking at it filled their minds with restlessness and a primitive fear.

Five of the survivors were pirates and rest were of the crew of the galleon. Just as they gathered their forces and made themselves ready to face each other in a final struggle, the bloodshed was halted by an eerie scream. Soon a young, half-naked woman ran towards them from the jungle, her eyes and trembling steps filled with terror.

Grains

- The life of a pirate is short and intense
- Mysteries of the past can be understood by only the few and the mad
- Gold and blood are inseparable

Jean Benoit Priqué (a.k.a. The Raven)



The Raven shares the name of his ship, and indeed he is the captain of the largest of the pirate vessels who found doom at the rocky shores of the island. He is short of stature and of French origins. A tailor by profession, he was driven to the seas in an early age and through some setbacks later became a pirate. During his short and reckless career he has struck a reputation as a fiery and unbeatable man. His modest stature has given him countless challenges and few nasty scars, but not one of those challengers have walked out after a meeting with his pistol or blade.

He lays the blame of his good fortunes to one gloomy meeting three years past. It happened when his budding captainship was about to crash due to quarreling men and general misfortunes. He wouldn't have thought anything special could happen in that dump, where he soaked his sorrows for the evening. Still, it was there where he met the fellow.

The man was old and dark-skinned as a helm made of ebony. After he dismissed the young captain's trials to rid himself from his presence, he soon promised the captain a glorious future. But this would take place only if Raven would draw heartblood in his name, Meghbwhala, once for every full moon.

Raven dismissed the innuendo of this quirky meeting, but in his profession the bloodshed was easy to arrange. And so he did ... and success started to follow his path, soon lifting him all the way to among the pirate legends of his time. But as his career progressed, so did his worry about this stranger who invaded even his sleep and tainted the sweet savor of victory from his mouth. And finally, after great anguish he managed to disobey the command of strange Meghbwhala. A month went by and another, and nothing bad happened. Soon Raven ignored the issue completely, dismissing some random thought of the stranger with a shrug.

The looting of the Spanish galleon required a joint venture of many crews. Raven led the affair, and indeed a success would be the finest hour on his career of fortune. But now his dreams lay in pieces on the shore and icy doubt crawls around in his heart. Still, he wishes to loot the gold, preferably from the dead-stiff hands of the Spaniards. If he'd succeed, he could leave the name of Meghbwhala behind him for good.

Traits	
3	Theatrical pirate captain Raven does everything with style. His successes only fuel his flair.
2	Ferocious Does everything with great passion and energy.
2	Distinguished Poor tailor has seen riches and enjoys fancy things.
1	Cat-like As a small man he is quick on his feet. It is a thing that has saved him often.
Burdens	
1	Vain Thinks he is better than others.
1	Cursed The threads of his fate are held outside ... or at least so he believes.

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