

XAVIER
DORISON

MATHIEU
LAUFFRAY

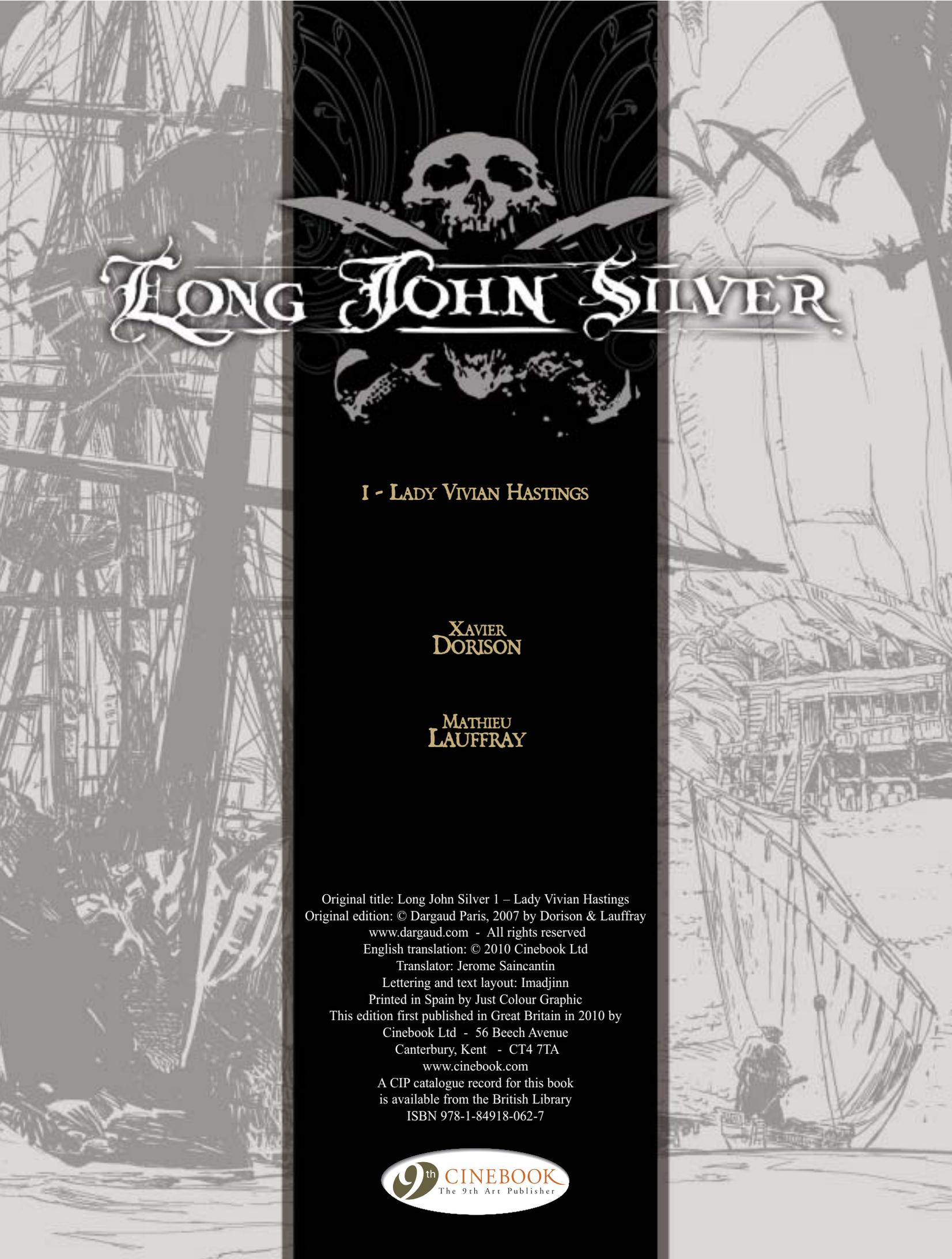


LONG JOHN SILVER



I - LADY VIVIAN HASTINGS





LONG JOHN SILVER

I - LADY VIVIAN HASTINGS

XAVIER
DORISON

MATHIEU
LAUFFRAY

Original title: Long John Silver 1 – Lady Vivian Hastings
Original edition: © Dargaud Paris, 2007 by Dorison & Lauffray
www.dargaud.com - All rights reserved
English translation: © 2010 Cinebook Ltd
Translator: Jerome Saincantin
Lettering and text layout: Imadjinn
Printed in Spain by Just Colour Graphic
This edition first published in Great Britain in 2010 by
Cinebook Ltd - 56 Beech Avenue
Canterbury, Kent - CT4 7TA
www.cinebook.com

A CIP catalogue record for this book
is available from the British Library
ISBN 978-1-84918-062-7



1785
FAR UP THE AMAZON
RIVER

MY DEAR ORPHEUS,

BY THE TIME YOU READ THESE LINES,
I WILL PROBABLY HAVE DEPARTED THIS
WORLD. YET, DO NOT SEE IN THEM THE
LAST HESITATIONS OF A FRIGHTENED
OLD MAN, OR SOME REQUEST FOR
ABSOLUTION. I DESERVE NEITHER PITY
NOR FORGIVENESS.

A THOUSAND TIMES, YOU ASKED
ME ABOUT MY PAST. A THOUSAND
TIMES, SHAME SEALED MY LIPS.

BUT IN THESE DARK HOURS, AT LAST,
I FIND THE COURAGE TO PASS ON TO
YOU THESE TERRIBLE MEMORIES. MAY
YOU PARSE THEM FOR NUGGETS OF
TRUTH, AND FIND IN THEM THE ANSWERS
THAT YOU SOUGHT SO FERVENTLY.

MY HANDS ARE SHAKING, AND TO TELL
IT ALL, I MUST FIRST APPEASE THE
FEVER THAT SEIZES ME EACH TIME
I LOOK BACK ON THESE EVENTS OF
1785. BARELY HALF A CENTURY HAS
PASSED SINCE; BUT IT IS A TIME
ALREADY FORGOTTEN, AND
FOREVER LOST.

THIS STORY BEGINS IN A
DISTANT WORLD. A WORLD
THAT GOD HIMSELF SEEMED
TO HAVE FORGOTTEN..





O'BRIAN IS DEAD, MY LORD.

LORD HASTINGS?



EXHAUSTION GOT HIM... FEVER... LIKE THE OTHERS!

THAT MAKES YOU LAUGH, EH, INDIAN JOE?...

WATCHING THE WHITE FOLK PUKE THEIR GUTS OUT WHILE YOU CHEW ON YOUR PLANT.. THAT MAKES YOUR DAY, DOESN'T IT?



BUT ME, I KNOW... THERE'S NOTHING IN YOUR RUDDY JUNGLE! NO MORE GOLD HERE THAN GROG IN A CONVENT!

SO, NOW, YOU'RE GOING TO GET UP NICELY AND TELL LORD HASTINGS EVERYTHING...

YOU'RE GOING TO TELL HIM THAT WE'RE NOT GOING TO FIND A THING; THAT WE'RE GOING TO HEAD HOME; AND THAT YOU TRICKED US!

AND THEN, I'LL BE THE ONE LAUGHING, YOU HEAR?

YOU HEAR?!

YOU HEAR ?!





MEANWHILE, AT THE OTHER
END OF THE WORLD...

IT WAS A THURSDAY, I THINK...
LORD PRISHAM WAS VISITING LADY
VIVIAN HASTINGS. FOR YEARS, THE
LADY HAD BEEN NEGLECTED BY HER
HUSBAND, LORD BYRON HASTINGS,
GONE TO THE NEW WORLD...

THAT DAY... BUT WAIT!
I GET AHEAD OF
MYSELF ALREADY.

BEFORE I GO ANY FURTHER
WITH THIS STORY, I MUST
TELL YOU SOMETHING OF
LADY VIVIAN HASTINGS...



I DO NOT WISH TO SHOCK
YOU, BUT I MIGHT AS
WELL ADMIT IT RIGHT
AWAY...

OF PROPER BEHAVIOUR,
SHE HAD...

... HER OWN INTERPRETATION...



I DON'T SEE
ANYTHING.

BUT THERE'S NO
DOUBT ABOUT IT,
MY LADY. I'M QUITE
FAMILIAR WITH SUCH
SIGNS. YOU'RE WITH
CHILD.



WHAT A
BOTHER! AS IF
I NEEDED THIS
RIGHT NOW!

IT WILL ONLY SHOW IN FOUR
TO SIX MONTHS, MY LADY. IT
ALL DEPENDS ON THE BELLY
AND THE MOON. THEY SAY THAT
WHEN IT'S FULL AND VENUS...



THANK YOU,
ELSIE...

I'M SURE YOU
WILL BE SUITABLY
USEFUL...

... IN DUE TIME.



IT'S TIME FOR YOU
TO GET READY. LORD
PRISHAM SHOULD ARRIVE
ANY TIME NOW.

ALREADY!?



AHH... WHAT A JOURNEY! I'M GLAD TO BE HERE AT LAST!



HMM... MILORD, WHO SHALL I SAY IS CALLING?

LORD PRISHAM, MY GOOD MAN! COMING DIRECTLY FROM BRISTOL! LADY HASTINGS IS DYING TO SEE ME!



BRING OUT THE BLUE MADRAS DRESS AND THE NECKLACE OF PUNJABI SAPPHIRES. HURRY!!!

BUT... MY LADY...



WE SOLD THE NECKLACE TO PAY FOR LAST WINTER'S WOOD.

I FORGOT... WHAT ABOUT THE CASAMANCE PEARLS?

THEY PAID FOR YOUR BIRTHDAY PARTY.



IT'S HIGH TIME I FIND MYSELF A HUSBAND...



BUT... LORD PRISHAM... I THOUGHT HE WAS ONLY A MISTAKE OF ONE NIGHT... WHY HIM, MY LADY?



BECAUSE HE IS THE LAST ONE TO BELIEVE IN MY FORTUNE...

AH, MY GOOD MAN, IF ONLY YOU KNEW! I AM IN HER EVERY THOUGHT.

QUITE SO, MILORD...



THAT'S HIM! HE'S COMING!!

CALM DOWN, ELSIE. I'M COUNTING ON YOU: DELAY HIM AT ALL COSTS! BUY ME A MINUTE...



AHH, LORD PRISHAM! WHAT... WHAT A SURPRISE, REALLY... WHAT...

GOOD GRIEF, GIRL, LADY HASTINGS IS EXPECTING ME! STEP ASIDE!



ER... I'M VERY MUCH SURPRISED, MILORD. I...

IT'S ALL RIGHT, ELSIE. PLEASE SHOW THE GENTLEMAN IN...



!...

PRISHAM, WHAT A PLEASURE! I DIDN'T EXPECT TO SEE YOU SO SOON...

YOU FIND ME RATHER UNPREPARED...

YOU KNOW, VIVIAN,
I KEPT DREAMING, BUT
I HAD LOST HOPE...



I LOVE YOU. AND FOR THIS,
I FORGIVE YOU YOUR UNFAITH-
FULNESS AS WELL AS YOUR
HESITATION... YOU SEE? I DO
NOT WANT TO SEE THIS SADNESS
ON YOUR FACE ANYMORE... TELL
ME WHAT YOUR WISH IS, AND IT
SHALL BE GRANTED.



DEAR FRIEND, I KNOW WHAT
I FORCED YOU TO ENDURE. IT
IS MY TURN, NOW, TO MAKE
YOU HAPPY...

FOR THIS, I HAVE
THE MOST BEAUTI-
FUL OF GIFTS...



PRISHAM, MY
DEAR FRIEND... I AM
CARRYING YOUR
CHILD...



THAT...
THAT'S NOT
POSSIBLE...

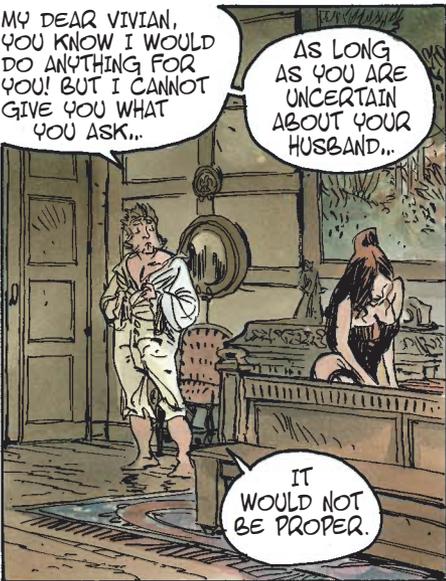


ONE NIGHT
WAS ENOUGH FOR
OUR HAPPINESS.



BUT... WHAT OF YOUR HUSBAND?

MY HUSBAND? STILL IN THE
AMERICAS. HE HAS NOT
BEEN SEEN OR HEARD OF
FOR THREE YEARS. MY
DUTY AS A WIFE WILL SOON
CONDEMN ME TO DECLARE
HIM DECEASED. BETWEEN
THE FEVERS AND THE WILD
ANIMALS, I PRAY THAT HIS
END WAS A PEACEFUL ONE...



MY DEAR VIVIAN,
YOU KNOW I WOULD
DO ANYTHING FOR
YOU! BUT I CANNOT
GIVE YOU WHAT
YOU ASK...

AS LONG
AS YOU ARE
UNCERTAIN
ABOUT YOUR
HUSBAND...

IT
WOULD NOT
BE PROPER.



PROPER... LORD BYRON
HASTINGS IS DEAD,
PRISHAM. HE HAS TO
BE. AND THE CHILD I
AM CARRYING NEEDS A
FATHER. A FATHER WHO
WILL INHERIT THE
HASTINGS ESTATE.



THE
WHOLE
ESTATE?