THE ADVENTURES OF TINTIN:
THE SECRET OF THE UNICORN

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Based on the books by
Herge

10/30/2011
FADE IN:

ICONIC TINTIN MOVIE CREDIT SEQUENCE

CREDITS play over a fast-paced mini-ACTION ADVENTURE, giving a flavour of who TINTIN is, and the exotic places he finds himself. A sense of the history of the character, placing him in context for both a long-time READER, and new MOVIEGOER.

As the CREDIT SEQUENCE ends, we push in towards a brilliant ORB, which separates into swirling colours and transforms into...

EXT. STREET MARKET - DAY

The SWirling COLOURS of an ARTIST’S PALATE.

A STREET ARTIST, bearing an uncanny resemblance to HERGÉ, is sketching a young man with his back to the camera. They are in the middle of a busy street market.

STREET ARTIST
Very nearly there, sir. I have to say, your face is familiar. Have I drawn you before?

TINTIN (O.C.)
Occasionally.

STREET ARTIST
Of course, I’ve seen you in the newspaper. You’re a reporter?

ANGLE ON: A WHITE DOG is sitting, looking a little bored, at the subject’s feet. The DOG whimpers.

TINTIN
I’m a journalist. Be patient, Snowy - not much longer.

Two patent leather shoes enter frame, distracting SNOWY. SNOWY leaves to follow the MAN, who deftly picks the pockets of market patrons as he goes.

ANGLE ON: SNOWY as he trots through the crowd, keeping his eyes on the PICKPOCKET.

The PICKPOCKET bumps into another market patron and snatches their wallet.

PICKPOCKET
I do beg your pardon.
ANGLE ON: SNOWY follows the PICKPOCKET as a hand continues to snatch wallets and handbags from their unsuspecting owners.

STREET ARTIST
There. I believe I’ve captured something of your likeness.

The STREET ARTIST hands TINTIN the picture, showing the CARTOON TINTIN.

Our fully-dimensional TINTIN admires it.

TINTIN
Not bad. What do you think, Snowy?

TINTIN looks around - SNOWY isn’t there.

TINTIN (CONT’D)
(exasperated)
Snowy...

TINTIN hands money to the artist and leaves, in search of SNOWY.

TINTIN (CONT’D)
There you are, sir. Now, where’s he run off to?

As TINTIN strolls through the market, he passes two pairs of eyes (the THOM(P)SONS), peering through holes cut in a NEWSPAPER.

THOMPSON
Anything?

THOMSON
Nothing!

TINTIN crosses behind them.

TINTIN
Snowy!

TINTIN has paused by a stall selling mirrors, which reflect multiple images of his famous quiff. A DOG BARK.

SNOWY runs over.

TINTIN (CONT’D)
Where have you been, heh? Chasing cats again?

ANGLE ON: TINTIN, just as something has caught his eye in the reflection of a stall selling cheap antiques.
TINTIN (CONT’D)
Snowy - look at this!

CLOSE ON: A magnificent model sailing ship in a glass case. TINTIN and SNOWY walk towards it and bend down to take a closer look.

TINTIN leans in closer. Intricate detail fills the frame, as if the boat were real. We can almost hear the sea, the shouts of sailors, the cry of gulls.

TINTIN (CONT’D)
Triple masted, double decks, fifty guns. Isn’t she a beauty?

CRABTREE (O.S.)
That’s a very unique specimen, that is.

The seller, CRABTREE, is sitting at his stall.

CRABTREE (CONT’D)
From an old sea captain’s estate.

TINTIN
The Unicorn...

CRABTREE
Unicorn. “Man-o-War” sailing ship. It’s very old, that is. Sixteenth century!

TINTIN
Seventeenth, I would think.

CRABTREE
Reign of Charles the First!

TINTIN
Charles the Second.

CRABTREE
That’s what I said, Charles the Second. As fine a ship as ever sailed the seven seas. You won’t find another one of these, mate. And it’s only two quid.

TINTIN
I’ll give you a pound.

CRABTREE
(relieved)
Done!
CRABTREE stands as TINTIN pays him.

ANGLE ON: BARNABY, a large man in a tight blue suit, is lumbering through the market, distracted and under pressure.

CRABTREE lifts the model ship from the case and hands it over.

CRABTREE (CONT'D)
Gently does it.

BARNABY continues to shove his way through the crowd.

MARKET PATRON
Excuse me!

CRABTREE releases the boat into TINTIN's hands.

CRABTREE
There you go, careful!

SUDDENLY: An AMERICAN VOICE!

BARNABY (O.S.)
Hey, bud...

BARNABY arrives at the stall, out of breath.

BARNABY (CONT'D)
...how much for the boat?

CRABTREE
I'm sorry, I just sold it to this young gent.

BARNABY
Oh yeah? Tell me what you paid and I'll give you double.

CRABTREE
(appalled)
Double?

TINTIN
Thanks, but it's not for sale.

BARNABY
Look, kid, I'm trying to help you out - I don't think you realize this, but you're about to walk into a whole mess of danger.

TINTIN
What kind of danger?
BARNABY's expression changes to a look of alarm.

BARNABY
I'm warning you - get rid of the boat and get out while you still can! These people do not play nice.

BARNABY moves back into the crowd.

TINTIN
What people?

VOICE (O.C.)
Wonderful!

TINTIN turns around to find a TALL, STOOPED-MAN standing behind him - this is SAKHARINE. He wears a long macintosh and tall bowler, with a coal black beard, fierce bright eyes and pince-nez.

SAKHARINE
It's just, wonderful! Don't bother wrapping it, I'll take it - 'as is'. Does anybody object if I pay by cheque?

CRABTREE
If you want to buy it, you'll have to talk to the kid!

SAKHARINE
I see. Well, let the kid name his price.

CRABTREE
(quiet despair)
_Name his price?_ Ten years I've been flogging bric-a-brac and I miss "name your price" by one bleedin' minute!

TINTIN
I'm sorry. I already explained to the other gentleman -

SAKHARINE frowns, looking around.

CRABTREE
American - he was. All hair oil and no socks!

TINTIN
It's not for sale.
SAKHARINE
Then let me appeal to your better nature. I have recently acquired Marlinspike Hall and this ship, as I'm sure you're aware, was once part of the estate.

TINTIN
Of the late sea captain?

SAKHARINE
The family fell upon hard times, lost everything. They'd been living in a cloud of bad luck ever since. We are talking generations of drinking and irrational behavior -

TINTIN
I'm sorry but as I told you before, it's not for sale.

SAKHARINE glares at TINTIN.

TINTIN (CONT'D)
Good day to you, sir.

TINTIN tucks the MODEL SHIP under his arm, nods politely, and leaves. SNOWY cocks his snout indignantly and follows.

SAKHARINE
That young man - what's his name?

CRABTREE

CLOSE ON: SAKHARINE as the camera closes in on his inscrutable face.

INT. TINTIN'S APARTMENT - DAY
TINTIN and SNOWY enter.

TINTIN
What is it about this ship? Why has it attracted so much attention?

He sets the model down on his sideboard.

TINTIN studies the MODEL SHIP ...

TINTIN (CONT'D)
What secrets do you hold?
TINTIN hurries to the next room. He takes off his coat and sets it down on the couch. He enters a small office and hunts around his desk for his magnifying glass; an old typewriter sits there in pride of place, surrounded by artifacts from far-off places.

TINTIN (CONT'D)
Ah! Where is that magnifying glass?

As TINTIN looks around - we see glimpses of his LIFE: framed PICTURES and NEWSPAPER STORIES, featuring past adventures. TINTIN posing with familiar CHARACTERS from early travels.

TINTIN (CONT'D)
Could have sworn it was... No. Where could it possibly be? Snowy, you haven't seen...

He moves to the large bookcase.

TINTIN (CONT'D)
Where is it?

SNOWY surprises him, he is holding the magnifying glass in his jaws.

TINTIN (CONT'D)
Thank you.

TINTIN takes it.

CLOSE ON: MAGNIFYING GLASS. He turns around to find the cat standing in the doorway. SNOWY turns and GROWLS!

TINTIN (CONT'D)
No, Snowy!

ANGLE ON: A WHITE CAT has slipped in through the open window. SNOWY instantly BARKS and chases the CAT, which springs back up into the living room.

TINTIN rushes back into the living room, and finds SNOWY chasing the CAT.

The CAT swings wildly from a chandelier, climbs up the drapes and over a bookshelf; SNOWY goes above it. As he races across the sideboard after the CAT, he knocks over the UNICORN!

TINTIN chases the CAT towards the window and slides on the floor.

He hears the CRASH! TINTIN spins around the SOUND.
CLOSE ON: The MODEL SHIP lies on the floor... mast broken off near the base.

TINTIN gently picks up the BROKEN MODEL SHIP.

TINTIN (CONT'D)
(annoyed)
Look what you did. You broke it!
Bad dog!

He turns the ship over, not noticing a SMALL METAL TUBE that drops onto the FLOOR.

CLOSE ON: TINTIN moves closer to the sideboard and unknowingly kicks the tube under the low cabinet. SNOWY tries to PAW at it, but it rolls away... the more SNOWY paws at it, the further he pushes it... until it rolls all the way under the cabinet.

CLOSE ON: TINTIN examines the damage ... the mast is hollow, and has snapped near the deck. TINTIN puts the MAST loosely back in place.

TINTIN (CONT'D)
Something happened on this ship.
And we're going to the one place that could have the answer ...

TINTIN grabs his coat and heads out of the apartment.

TINTIN (CONT'D)
C'mon, Snowy.

TINTIN and SNOWY leave the apartment. Someone is watching through binoculars from outside the window. They focus on the SHIP.

INT. LIBRARY - EVENING

ANGLE ON: TINTIN sits in the gothic library, a tiny figure dwarfed by towering shelves.

CLOSE ON: TINTIN is reading an old thick maritime encyclopedia. He turns the page and whispers to SNOWY.

TINTIN
(low whisper)
Here it is! "Sir Francis Haddock of Marlinspike Hall the last Captain of the ill-fated Unicorn ..."
(MORE)
TINTIN (CONT'D)
The ship set sail from Barbados in 1676 on one of the most ruinous voyages in maritime history... ship never reached destination...

CLOSE ON: An old illustration of the UNICORN under full sail.

TINTIN (CONT'D)
...attacked by pirates, all hands lost except for one survivor. When Sir Francis was rescued and returned home, he was convinced his name had been cursed. The Unicorn's manifest stated that it was carrying a cargo of rum and tobacco bound for Europe, but it was long claimed the ship was carrying a secret cargo...

TINTIN glances at SNOWY, puzzled...

TINTIN (CONT'D)
What was the ship carrying, Snowy?

TINTIN turns another page and keeps reading ...

TINTIN (CONT'D)
Historians have tried and failed to discover what happened on that fatal voyage - but Sir Francis's last words: 'Only a true Haddock will discover the secret of the Unicorn.'

TINTIN turns the page to continue, then puts the book down and grabs another, flipping through the pages.

A familiar blue-suited figure sneaks between the aisles...
TINTIN takes a look behind his shoulder - there is no one.

CLOSE ON: TINTIN is a little creeped out. A storm is brewing, and rain beats on the library windows. TINTIN thinks he's being watched. Lightning strikes outside.

INT. 26 LABRADOR STREET HALLWAY - EVENING

ANGLE ON: TINTIN enters the hallway.

TINTIN
I’ve missed something, Snowy. We need to take a closer look at that model.
He walks up the stairs.

INT. TINTIN'S FLAT - EVENING

TINTIN opens the door and enters. The model ship has vanished.

TINTIN
Of course it's gone! How could I be so stupid?

EXT. MARLINSPIKE HALL COUNTRYSIDE - NIGHT

A faded sign indicating "MARLINSPIKE HALL" can still be read.

ANGLE ON: TINTIN and SNOWY hurry along in the shadows of a high brick wall that surrounds a country estate.

A full moon casts spooky shadows through skeletal trees, blowing in the wind. With every gust, a carpet of dead leaves lift into the air.

ANGLE ON: The rusting iron gates, covered with ivy.

TINTIN reaches the gate he tries to open them, to no avail.

Suddenly, SNOWY appears on the other side.

TINTIN
How'd you do that?

SNOWY shows TINTIN a hole in the crumbled wall.

TINTIN (CONT'D)
Clever boy.

TINTIN squeezes through the hole, with SNOWY close behind...

EXT. MARLINSPIKE HALL GROUNDS - NIGHT

ANGLE ON: TINTIN and SNOWY cross the heavily wooded estate to a dark mansion.

ANGLE ON: MARLINSPIKE HALL ... a once-grand chateau-style COUNTRY HOUSE, now looking very sad and neglected. Empty and dark.

TINTIN walks up to the steps.
ANGLE ON: TINTIN’S flashlight sweeps and settles on a COAT OF ARMS, carved into stone above the front door. A large fish dominates the design.

TINTIN
(whispers)
A coat of arms... why does that look familiar?
(realizes)
Hang on a minute... that fish! It’s a Haddock! Of course – Marlinspike Hall is the old Haddock estate...

SNOWY quickly heads off on in the wrong direction.

TINTIN (CONT’D)
Snowy!

A slavering GUARD DOG growls and charges at TINTIN from out of the shadows!

ANGLE ON: TINTIN races away from the DOG, leaping fallen trees and ducking low branches, with the hound snapping at his heels.

TINTIN approaches a stone wall as the DOG is almost upon him. Suddenly, SNOWY leaps from the bramble and barks angrily at the GUARD DOG. The larger dog cowers and whines, submitting to SNOWY’S ferocity.

TINTIN (CONT’D)
Well done, Snowy! Good boy.

TINTIN pets his head.

The GUARD DOG playfully runs about SNOWY on the front lawn, as TINTIN unlatches a broken window and climbs inside.

INT. MARLINSPIKE HALL - NIGHT

ANGLE ON: TINTIN slowly pushes open the window inside the mansion and carefully sweeps his FLASHLIGHT through a darkened room. Everything is coated in layers of dust and the furniture is covered in great white sheets. A shadowy figure stealthily walks alongside him.

TINTIN moves through a door into a side room, where he sees a distinctive SHAPE hidden beneath a sheet. In one swift movement, he sweeps the sheet aside.

ANGLE ON: The MODEL SHIP sitting in a display case, bathed in a shaft of ghostly moonlight.
CLOSE ON: TINTIN can't believe his luck ... he grabs the MODEL SHIP. He shines the flashlight on the boat before picking it up.

TINTIN

(softly)
Well, well, well... it seems we've caught our thief.

He starts to back away from the case holding onto the ship. He turns to see a tall, SILHOUETTED FIGURE standing in front of him ... the MAN raises a CANDLESTICK and whacks TINTIN on his HEAD!

THUNK!

TINTIN slumps to the FLOOR, head spinning. The room lights are turned on.

NESTOR takes the UNICORN from TINTIN as he is lying on the floor, making sure his head is still attached. SAKHARINE enters, completely cool and calm.

SAKHARINE

Welcome to Marlinspike Hall. I see you let yourself in.

TINTIN gets up.

TINTIN

I came to retrieve my property.

SAKHARINE

I'm sorry - I'm not sure I follow you?

TINTIN sits up, rubbing the back on his head. NESTOR is holding the UNICORN MODEL.

TINTIN

Oh, I think you do. This ship was stolen from my apartment less than an hour ago!

TINTIN tries to get the MODEL SHIP from NESTOR - as if he's thinking of making a dash for it.

SAKHARINE

I'm afraid you're mistaken, Mr. Tintin.

NESTOR pulls the ship back from TINTIN.
TINTIN
There's no mistake. It belongs to me!

He pulls back again away from NESTOR.

SAKHARINE
Are you sure?

NESTOR begins to pulls the ship away from TINTIN.

TINTIN
Of course I'm sure.

TINTIN takes the SHIP.

TINTIN (CONT'D)
I took it home. I put it on a cabinet in the living room and then Snowy chased the cat and knocked it over and it ...
(dawning realization)
... fell.

TINTIN'S eye is drawn to the mast. This mast is not broken and split like that on his own ship.

TINTIN (CONT'D)
(stunned)
This isn't my ship.

SAKHARINE
No, indeed.

NESTOR takes the SHIP back, and goes back to the case and puts it inside.

TINTIN
I - I'm sorry. It looks - identical.

SAKHARINE takes TINTIN by the arm and leads him out towards the door.

SAKHARINE
Well, looks can be deceiving.

TINTIN
Yes, indeed ...

TINTIN pulls away from SAKHARINE and walks back to the case and the ship.
TINTIN (CONT’D)
... but I don’t understand! Why did Sir Francis make two ships exactly alike? And you have one already. Why do you want another? What is it about this model that would cause someone to steal it?

SAKHARINE
Goodness me, why so many questions?

TINTIN
It’s my job. There could be a story here. It’s what I do, you see.

SAKHARINE
Well, it’s no great mystery. Sir Francis Haddock was a drunkard and a hopeless reprobate! He was doomed to fail and he bequeathed that failure to his sons.

He starts to walks away from TINTIN, TINTIN follows him.

TINTIN
So it’s true! The Haddock line is cursed!

He stops TINTIN with his cane.

SAKHARINE
What else have you found out?

TINTIN pushes the cane away.

TINTIN
What is there to find?

SAKHARINE swings the cane to TINTIN’s other shoulder.

SAKHARINE
That depends what you’re looking for.

TINTIN
I’m looking for answers, Mr. Sakharine ...

SAKHARINE
You’re looking in the wrong place.

SAKHARINE offers TINTIN a THIN SMILE.
SAKHARINE (CONT'D)
It's late ... I think you should go home.

NESTOR hands the torch to TINTIN.

NESTOR
This way, Sir.

NESTOR and TINTIN leave the room. SAKHARINE takes a look at the ship.

INT. MARLINSPIKE HALL FOYER - NIGHT

NESTOR escorts a sullen TINTIN out.

NESTOR
It's a pity, sir.

TINTIN turns.

TINTIN
I'm sorry?

NESTOR
That the mast broke on your model ship, sir. I hope you found all the pieces. Things are so easily lost.

SAKHARINE (O.C.)
Nestor! Where are you?!

NESTOR
Good night, sir.

NESTOR closes the door.

EXT. 26 LABRADOR STREET - NIGHT

ANGLE ON: TINTIN and SNOWY walk down the dark, wet street to TINTIN'S apartment.

TINTIN
Some thing's are easily lost. What did he mean by that, Snowy? What was he trying to tell me? Some things are easily lost ...
INT. LABRADOR STREET STAIRS - EVENING

TINTIN and SNOWY climb the stairs to their apartment. The door is ajar.

TINTIN enters and turns on the lights.

ANGLE ON: TINTIN’S flat has been RANSACKED!!

TINTIN
Great snakes!

Furniture overturned... books thrown off shelves... drawers pulled and emptied.

CLOSE ON: SNOWY whimpering and clawing at the CABINET.

TINTIN (CONT’D)
What is it, Snowy?

TINTIN pulls the CABINET aside to reveal the METAL TUBE.

He squats down and picks up the tiny metal tube from the broken mast. TINTIN stands and examines the TUBE.

TINTIN (CONT’D)
What’s this? A ha! This was in the mast.

TINTIN walks over to the table sits down.

CLOSE ON: TINTIN unscrews the lid and shakes the TUBE... a small parchment, wrapped in ribbon and sealed with wax, falls into his palm.

ANGLE ON: TINTIN at the table ... SNOWY brings the magnifying glass in his jaws.

TINTIN (CONT’D)
Good boy, Snowy.

TINTIN carefully unfurls the PARCHMENT and studies it. Written ornately across it in faded quill:

TINTIN (CONT’D)
(reading)
"Three brothers joined. Three
Unicorns in company, sailing in the
new day sun will speak. For tis
from the Light that Light will
dawn, and then shine forth the
Eagle’s Cross."

Beneath that, a few seemingly meaningless strokes and dashes.
TINTIN (CONT'D)
What are these markings? Some kind
of secret language, or code? It
makes no sense. But it does explain
why they ransacked the flat. They
were looking for this, and they
didn't find it, which means ...
they'll be back.

The doorbell downstairs JANGLES.

INT. 26 LABRADOR STREET HALLWAY - NIGHT

CLOSE ON: TINTIN tucking the scroll carefully into his wallet
as he creeps down the stairs.

MRS. FINCH
No, I don't know where he is,
Dearie. I think he's gone out. And
anyway, it's after dark and Mr.
Tintin is most particular about not
admitting visitors after bedtime. I
have to go back to my cocoa. I've
got a very good book and a cup of
cocoa. It's really lovely...

TINTIN steps forward to see MRS. FINCH talking to an unseen
MAN at the door. The chain is still on, the door open only a

TINTIN
Thank you, Mrs. Finch. I can look
after this...

MRS. FINCH shoots TINTIN a sour look, vanishes into her
apartment.

CLOSE ON: TINTIN approaching the door cautiously, a pistol in
his hand, which he keeps behind his back. A familiar
American voice is heard:

BARNABY
Hey kid, is that you? Open the
door!

BARNABY presses his face through the crack.

TINTIN
What do you want?

BARNABY
Look, the game is up! He's gonna be
back!

(MORE)
BARNABY (CONT'D)
Now, I know he wanted those boats, but I swear to God, I never thought he’d kill anyone over it.

TINTIN
Who? Who are you talking about?

BARNABY
I’m trying to tell you that your life is in danger - !

TINTIN
Answer me! Who???

BANG! BANG! BANG! Bullet holes PUNCH through the door! TINTIN throws himself to the floor!

The last bullet has taken out the chain. The door swings slowly open to reveal a bloody, unarmed BARNABY! He falls to the floor.

TINTIN (CONT'D)
(shouting)
Mrs. Finch! A man’s been shot on our doorstep.

MRS. FINCH
(exasperated)
Not again ...

TINTIN
Call an ambulance!

TINTIN rushes into the street as a blue car drives away. SNOWY tries to chase after the CAR.

TINTIN (CONT’D)
Snowy!

SNOWY stops, but BARKS loudly.

ANGLE ON: BARNABY lies on the doormat clawing desperately at a newspaper. TINTIN runs back in.

TINTIN rolls BARNABY over, but he’s out cold.

TINTIN (CONT’D)
Can you hear me? Can you...

TINTIN picks up the newspaper, stares at it.
INT. TINTIN'S APARTMENT - DAY

ANGLE ON: TINTIN studying the block-stained newspaper. TINTIN lowers the paper, and before him stand the two plainclothes Interpol Detectives, THOMPSON and THOMSON.

THOMSON
The victim's name was Barnaby Dawes.

THOMPSON
He was one of the top agents at Interpol but we haven't got a clue what he was working on.

THOMSON
Quite right, Thompson. We're completely clueless.

TINTIN
Interpol doesn't have any other leads?

THOMSON
Oh, steady on, Tintin - we're still filling out the paperwork.

THOMPSON
Police work's not all glamour and guns - there's an awful lot of filing.

TINTIN
Well, I might have something for you. Before he lost consciousness, Dawes tried to tell me something and I think he was spelling out a word... B O U D... J A N.

CLOSE ON: TINTIN traces each letter that BARNABY marked with a BLOODY FINGER PRINT.

TINTIN (CONT'D)
...KARABOUDJAN.

THOMSON
Karaboudjan!

TINTIN
Does that mean anything to you?

THOMSON snatches the newspaper from TINTIN.
THOMSON
Great Scotland Yard! That’s extraordinary!

TINTIN
What is?

THOMSON
Worthington’s have a half price sale on bowler hats!

THOMPSON snatches the paper.

THOMPSON
Really, Thomson! This is hardly the time.

THOMPSON (CONT’D)
Great Scotland Yard!

THOMSON
What is it?

THOMPSON
Canes are half price, too!

TINTIN
Are you going to take charge of this evidence?

THOMSON
Positively. Never fear, Tintin. The evidence is safe with us!

THOMPSON snatches the newspaper back, and hurries out of the door at speed ... his foot catches the CAT on the landing and her FALLS from view, followed by SOUNDS of him TRIPPING and TUMBLING violently down the stairs.

THOMPSON
Thomson! Where are you?

THOMSON sits at the bottom of the stairs in a daze.

THOMSON
Well, I’m already downstairs! Do try to keep up.

EXT. 26 LABRADOR STREET - DAY

ANGLE ON: TINTIN catches up to the THOM(P)SONS at the front door – he hands THOMSON the NEWSPAPER.
TINTIN
Wait -

THOMSON
Oh?

TINTIN
You dropped this.

THOMSON
Good heavens, Thomson - look after the evidence man.

THOMSON
Sorry, Thompson. My mind is on other things.

THOMSON
Ah, yes. Our light-fingered larcenist.

TINTIN
What?

THOMSON
The pickpocket. He has no idea what's coming.

THOMSON
Go on, Tintin. Take my wallet.

THOMSON opens his jacket. TINTIN pulls a wallet out, discovering it is attached to a piece of sturdy elastic, sewn into his jacket.

THOMSON (CONT'D)
(proudly)
Yes, industrial strength elastic!

TINTIN
(impressed)
Very, uh, resourceful.

THOMSON
Oh, on the contrary, it was childishly simple.

THOMSON
Simply childish, I agree.

THOM(P)SONS tip their hats in farewell.

BOTH THOM(P)SONS
Tintin...
TINTIN
Gentlemen.

The THOM(P)SONS set off down the STREET.

THOMSON
Mind you, I expect he’s miles away by now.

THOMPSON
I presume you’re referring to the pickpocket?

THOMSON
Yes, I mean, knowing we’re just a few steps behind him.

A gray-haired man walks past TINTIN at the doorway. SNOWY growls and begins to follow him.

TINTIN steps out and kneels next to SNOWY holding him.

TINTIN
Snowy, what is it boy? What do you see?

THOMPSON
I don’t suppose you’d fancy a cup of tea.

THOMSON
You’re quite mistaken, I’d love one.

THOMPSON
My treat ...

ANGLE ON: The PICKPOCKET rubs his hands, as he walks briskly towards the THOM(P)SONS... his hand sweeps up, sliding into THOMSON’S jacket pocket. It is the familiar routine: a heel spin, straighten the jacket, touch the hat.

ANGLE ON: The wallet is pulled out, but quickly stretches at the end of the elastic!

THOMSON
I’ve got you now!

QUICK SHOTS: THOMSON is nearly pulled off his feet, as the PICKPOCKET tugs at the wallet, stretching the elastic tight.

The PICKPOCKET lets the wallet go, and it snaps back into THOMSON’S FACE!
THOMPSON
Devil! Stop, in the name of the law!

THOMPSON gives chase. His cane gets caught in the elastic. The elastic snaps back and slams THOMPSON to the ground. THOMPSON rips the PICKPOCKET’S jacket off, but gets it stuck on his head, blocking his vision.

THOMPSON (CONT’D)
Got you!

He crashes into a LAMPPOST.

TINTIN
What’s going on down there? C’mon, Snowy!

TINTIN races towards the THOMP(P)SONS, nearly knocking down the PICKPOCKET, ARISTIDES SILK, who’s fleeing in panic.

SILK
(chirpy)
I do beg your pardon!!

TINTIN
Sorry, sir!

TINTIN arrives to find the THOMPSON’S dizzy and bewildered.

THOMPSON
The pickpocket, Tintin! He’s getting away!

TINTIN
(quiet shock)
My wallet!

TINTIN looks back up the street... quickly realizing it was the old man he banged into.

CLOSE ON: With dawning dread, TINTIN reaches into his pocket — his WALLET has been TAKEN!

TINTIN (CONT’D)
It’s gone!
(urgent)
Come on! Snowy, after him!

TINTIN starts running through the fog to catch the SILK.

TINTIN (CONT’D)
Stop! Wait!
He chases him across the foggy street, but narrowly avoids getting hit by a CAR.

For a brief moment, TINTIN is disorientated by CAR HEADLIGHTS, casting wild beams in the fog and swerving crazily to avoid hitting him.

ANGLE ON: Two canes suddenly hook TINTIN’S arms and drag him and SNOWY to the safety of the footpath... the THOM(P)SONS have rescued him.

THOMPSON

Got ya!

THOMSON

Steady on!

TINTIN

I’ve lost him!

TINTIN turns to the THOM(P)SONS.

TINTIN (CONT’D)
You must find my wallet! It’s very important. I have to get it back.

THOMPSON

And you will! Leave it to the professionals.

ANGLE ON: TINTIN walks back towards his apartment, his pace quickens as he forms a plan.

TINTIN

We’ve lost the scroll, but we haven’t lost the story.
Karaboudjan. That’s an Armenian word. That’s our lead, Snowy. What was Barnaby Dawes trying to tell us when he said our lives are in danger?

ANGLE ON: TINTIN suddenly stops as he reaches the DOOR to his FLAT. Two workmen are carrying a large wooden crate from a RED DELIVERY VAN towards TINTIN’S flat. TINTIN is puzzled to find a DELIVERY MAN in the HALLWAY; this is ALLAN.

ALLAN

Mister Tint - tin? Delivery for ya.

TINTIN

But I didn’t order anything?
TINTIN looks at the CRATE, which is being carried towards the DOORWAY. Before he can react, a handkerchief is clasped over TINTIN's mouth. His eyes roll and he collapses into ALLAN's arms.

ALLAN
Well, that's because it's you that's getting delivered.

TINTIN is bundled inside the crate, the lid is slammed shut. Stencilled on the side, the word KARABOUDJAN.

ALLAN (CONT'D)
Quick! Get him in the van.

SNOWY sinks his teeth into ALLAN'S leg.

ALLAN (CONT'D)
Get off me you confounded mutt!

He shakes SNOWY off into the hallway and slams the door.

INT. 26 LABRADOR STREET - DAY

ANGLE ON: SNOWY races up the STAIRS, towards the STUDY then leaps on the DESK.

ALLAN climbs into the RED VAN.

ALLAN
He bit me! Quick!

The RED VAN pulls away.

SNOWY watches from the window sill as the van drives away. A FIRE TRUCK approaches.

ANGLE ON: SNOWY flies through the AIR, LANDING on a passing truck.

The fire truck, now directly behind the van, slams on its brakes as the van comes to an abrupt stop and the LADDER quickly extends, taking SNOWY with it. SNOWY falls onto the HOOD of the VAN, is thrown off but pursues ALLAN and the others as fast as his legs will carry him.

SNOWY hops onto passing BICYCLE and runs through a pen of COWS before arriving at the docks, and the KARABOUDJAN.

As TINTIN's crate is loaded aboard a massive ship, SNOWY sneaks up the ropes tethering the SHIP to the dock. Various CREWMEN yell orders from the dock.
CREWMAN (O.S.)
Come on, come on!

The SHIP heads out of the harbor.

INT. KARABOUDJAN LOWER HOLD - NIGHT

WOOZY ANGLE: TINTIN’S POV, coming in and out of FOCUS as we hear VOICES:

ALLAN
Eh, not here. Look your side.

TOM
(grunting)
Hang on. Nothing.

ALLAN
Well, check that pocket.

TINTIN is in a cage being searched by ALLAN and TOM, the workmen who grabbed him at his flat.

TOM
I’ve looked at this one already, I’m sure of it.

ALLAN
Have a look in his socks.

SAKHARINE enters the hold at a quick pace.

SAKHARINE
Have you found it?

ALLAN
Doesn’t have it!

TOM
It’s not on him, boss. It’s not here.

ANGLE ON: TINTIN sits up groggily, finding himself bound in a dank ship’s hold.

SAKHARINE
Not here? Then where is it?

TINTIN
Where’s what?

ANGLE ON: SAKHARINE smacks the cage with his cane.
SAKHARINE
Oh, I am tired of your games. The scroll, from the Unicorn. A piece of paper, like this.

SAKHARINE produces a SCROLL, which looks very similar to TINTIN'S.

TINTIN
You mean the poem.

SAKHARINE
Yes!

TINTIN
The poem written in Old English.

SAKHARINE
Yes.

TINTIN
It was inside a cylinder.

SAKHARINE
Yes.

TINTIN
Concealed in the mast.

SAKHARINE
Yes!

SAKHARINE'S FACE, full of anticipation, contorts into an UGLY SCOWL.

TINTIN
I don’t have it.

SAKHARINE lifts his cane towards TOM. TOM takes off the sheath. SAKHARINE draws a long, thin sword from within. He presses the tip to TINTIN'S face.

SAKHARINE
You know the value of that scroll. Why else would you take it?

TINTIN
(realization)
Two ships ... two scrolls ... both part of a puzzle. You have one, you need the other. But that’s not it. There’s something else.

SAKHARINE bends down to look TINTIN in the eye.
SAKHARINE
I will find it, with or without your help. You need to think about exactly how useful you are to me...

ANGLE ON: SAKHARINE leads TOM and ALLAN out of the room.

SAKHARINE (CONT’D)
We’ll deal with him on the way.

TOM
Aye aye, sir.

SAKHARINE
Hold this course.

As ALLAN closes the door, SNOWY sneaks into the room. ALLAN SLAMS the heavy, watertight door and locks it.

TINTIN spots SNOWY as the dog runs across the hold to his master.

TINTIN
Snowy! It’s good to see you, too. See if you can chew through these ropes.

SNOWY goes to work on the ropes.

EXT. KARABOUDJAN UPPER STAIRWAY - NIGHT

ANGLE ON: SAKHARINE CLIMBS the last STAIRS to the BRIDGE ... he walks to his cabin, he pauses to pass instructions to ALLAN and TOM. WIND whips his HAIR.

SAKHARINE
Well, he’s lying! He must have the scroll. The question is - what has he done with it?

TOM
We searched him all over, boss.

SAKHARINE
I want you to go back down there and make him talk. Break every bone in his body if you have to.

TOM
(dismayed)
Oh, that’s nasty!
SAKHARINE
You know the stakes, you know what we’re playing for. Just do it!

Another CREW MEMBER, PEDRO, comes running up to them.

PEDRO
Mister Sakharine! Mister Sakharine!
All hell has broken loose! It’s a disaster! The Captain has come around -

ALLAN
What!

PEDRO
He’s conscious! He’s accusing you of mutiny – he says you turned the crew against him.

ALLAN
Sounds like he’s sobered up again.

SAKHARINE
Well, don’t just stand there, get him another bottle.

PEDRO
Si, senor.

ALLAN AND TOM
Aye, sir.

WIDE ON: SAKHARINE goes into his cabin ...

INT. KARABOUDJAN LOWER HOLD - NIGHT

TINTIN looks around. He grabs a crowbar and takes it to the door. He jams it into the wheel; the door is now locked from the INSIDE!

He moves to a crate and pulls the top off, he takes the top and covers the window in the door with it.

TINTIN walks back to a large crate, it is filled with live animals. A GROWL. He opens a PORTHOLE.

EXT. KARABOUDJAN LOWER HOLD - CONTINUOUS

ANGLE ON: A lower opens and TINTIN leans out of the small window. He’s on a large CARGO SHIP, which is ploughing through a rough ocean at speed. There’s nowhere to escape to.
He looks up and sees another porthole. Loud, unintelligible SINGING emanates from the open window.

INT. KARABOUDJAN LOWER CORRIDOR - NIGHT

ANGLE ON: ALLAN and TOM as they come down the corridor.

ALLAN attempts to open the door... it's locked! ALLAN and TOM look at each other.

    TOM
    (encouragingly)
    Jiggle it a bit - it's just stuck.

    ALLAN
    Jiggle?

    TOM
    Here...

TOM attempts to be helpful by showing ALLAN how to open the door - ALLAN swats his hands away, angrily.

    ALLAN
    What you doing? Geddooff! It's not stuck, you idiot - he's bolted it from the inside!

INT. KARABOUDJAN LOWER HOLD - NIGHT

TINTIN looks about the room.

    ALLAN (O.S.)
    So you want to play it like that then, do you? Tintin?

INT. KARABOUDJAN LOWER CORRIDOR - NIGHT

    ALLAN
    (to TOM in a grim voice)
    Get the TNT.

INT. KARABOUDJAN LOWER HOLD - NIGHT

TINTIN turns and looks at the room again:

CLOSE ON: TINTIN's puzzled FACE, as he studies his surroundings.
TINTIN
(thinking)
Broken crates ... rope ...
champagne. What else do we have,
Snowy?

INT. KARABOUDJAN LOWER CORRIDOR - NIGHT

ANGLE ON: ALLAN, TOM set up a wicked-looking SHIP’S CLUB. They brace it against the door. A COUPLE of OTHER THUGS are watching nearby.

ALLAN
There are other ways to open this
door! They’ll be swabbing the
decks with your innards when we’re
done with you!

INT. KARABOUDJAN LOWER HOLD - NIGHT

TINTIN grabs a CRATE OF CHAMPAGNE and lines it up. He takes another crowbar and moves to a CRATE. He rips off some PLANKS.

INT. KARABOUDJAN LOWER CORRIDOR - NIGHT

ALLAN quickly sets up the EXPLOSIVE CHARGES against the DOOR, ready to blast it open.

ALLAN
Hurry up, hurry up!

INT. KARABOUDJAN LOWER HOLD - NIGHT

TINTIN grabs the planks and the rope and ties the planks together. He hurries over to the porthole.

INT. KARABOUDJAN LOWER CORRIDOR - NIGHT

ALLAN takes the fuse line and moves towards TOM, he lights the match on TOM’S face -

EXT. KARABOUDJAN - NIGHT

ANGLE ON: TINTIN leans out of the PORTHOLE as far as he dares.
INT. KARABOUDJAN LOWER CORRIDOR - NIGHT

ALLAN lights the FUSE.

EXT. KARABOUDJAN - NIGHT

TINTIN takes aim and throws the KNOTTED PLANKS as high as he can, aiming at another OPEN PORTHOLE far above. TINTIN watches as the PLANKS arc up, hover and then plummet back down towards him! BONK! The PLANKS bounce off TINTIN’S HEAD...

INT. KARABOUDJAN LOWER CORRIDOR - NIGHT

ANGLE ON: ALLAN, TOM and the THUGS take COVER a safe distance from TINTIN’s DOOR.

EXT. KARABOUDJAN - NIGHT

TINTIN takes aim again.

INT. KARABOUDJAN LOWER CORRIDOR - NIGHT

The FUSE LINE continues to burn.

INT. KARABOUDJAN LOWER CORRIDOR - NIGHT

ALLAN takes cover next to TOM. He uses TOM as a body shield.

ALLAN

Don’t move.

EXT. KARABOUDJAN - NIGHT

TINTIN throws the knotted planks up to the PORTHOLE.

INT. HADDOCK’S CABIN - NIGHT

THWACK! TINTIN’S PLANKS fly into the room, walloping CAPTAIN HADDOCK on the back of the HEAD! HADDOCK slumps forward on the table, HEAD SPINNING!

INT. KARABOUDJAN LOWER CORRIDOR - NIGHT

ANGLE ON: TINTIN’S DOOR is blown CLEAN OFF its hinges! SMOKE pours into the CORRIDOR.
ALLAN
Move! Let’s go!

THUG
Let me at him!

GUNS in HAND, ALLAN leads the THUGS towards TINTIN’S ROOM.

SUDDENLY! BANG! BANG! ALLAN and the THUGS retreat from a VOLLEY OF GUNFIRE, coming from inside the HOLD!

TOM
He’s got a big shooter!

TOM jumps in front of the door, ready to fire when he is hit and falls to the ground.

TOM (CONT’D)
Got me!

A CHAMPAGNE CORK lands on the ground next to him. ALLAN picks it up.

INT. KARABOUDJAN LOWER CORRIDOR - NIGHT

ALLAN picks up a CHAMPAGNE CORK.

ALLAN
Hold your fire!

INT. KARABOUDJAN LOWER HOLD - NIGHT

ANGLE ON: ALLAN peers around the corner of the blasted DOORWAY ... TINTIN has carefully positioned rows of champagne bottles aimed at the doorway. With each vibration, several corks pop out, like gunfire. No sign of TINTIN.

TOM
He ain’t here! He’s vanished!

Another cork POPS, hitting TOM square in the forehead and knocking him out.

ALLAN
He’s hiding. Search the ship. Quickly!

INT. HADDOCK’S CABIN - NIGHT

HADDOCK rises, stunned by the blow to the head. He looks around wildly, thinking he has been set upon.
ANGLE ON: HADDOCK catches sight of SNOWY ...

HADDOCK
Arghhhh! A giant rat of Sumatra!

He stands and flinches back, startled, he punches through the bird cage with his head and gets caught inside it. He jumps again as TINTIN climbs through the porthole!

HADDOCK quickly snatches up a LEG from a BROKEN CHAIR ... he points it at TINTIN, aiming it as if he is en guard.

HADDOCK (CONT’D)
Aha! Thought you could sneak in here and catch me with me trousers down, eh?

TINTIN quickly snatches up the other LEG of the BROKEN CHAIR brandishing it front of him like a sword ... he quickly parries a lunge from HADDOCK ...

TINTIN
I’d rather you kept your trousers on, if it’s all the same to you.

TINTIN and HADDOCK circle each other warily ... HADDOCK up ends a TABLE, TINTIN has to jump on to a trunk to escape as HADDOCK swings wildly at him.

HADDOCK
I know your game - you’re one of them!

TINTIN
I’m sorry?

HADDOCK
They sent you here to kill me, eh?

TINTIN
(dodging another swipe)
Look - I don’t know who you are -

HADDOCK
That’s how he planned to bump me off. Murdered in my bed by a baby-faced assassin!

SNOWY has HADDOCK’s pant-leg in his teeth.

TINTIN
Assassin?! Look - you’ve got it all wrong, I was kidnapped by a gang of thugs.
HADDOCK
The filthy swine! He’s turned the
whole crew against me!

TINTIN
Who?

HADDOCK
A sour-faced man with a sugary
name. He bought them all off -
every last man!

TINTIN
Sakharine!

At the mention of SAKHARINE’S name, HADDOCK stops in his
tracks.

HADDOCK
Nobody takes my ship!

TINTIN
You’re the Captain?

HADDOCK
(loudly)
Of course I’m the Captain - who
else could I be?!

TINTIN
Shhhh!

HADDOCK
(slumps)
I’ve been locked in this room for
days, with only whiskey to sustain
my mortal soul.

TINTIN tries the door... it opens. NOT LOCKED.

HADDOCK (CONT’D)
Oh. Well, I assumed it was locked.

TINTIN
Well, it’s not. Now you must excuse
me - if they find me here, they’ll
kill me. I have to keep moving...
try and find my way off this
drunken tub.

TINTIN slips out of the cabin, into the corridor.

HADDOCK
Tub! Tub!!
INT. KARABOUDJAN LOWER CORRIDOR - NIGHT

ANGLE ON: TINTIN steps into the corridor, he closes the door and comes face-to-face with a SAILOR!

          HADDOCK
          Tub?

The SAILOR goes for TINTIN manages to grab him, and they wrestle.

          HADDOCK (CONT'D)
              (angry)
              Tub!!!!!

HADDOCK opens the door.

CLOSE ON: HADDOCK PUNCHES THE GUARD OUT COLD!

HADDOCK close the door again.

The SAILOR starts to come to and moves forward, HADDOCK slams the door on the SAILOR.

TINTIN catches the SAILOR and throws him forward onto HADDOCK'S ARMS.

          TINTIN
              (impressed)
              Thanks.

          HADDOCK
              Pleasure.

TINTIN and HADDOCK pull his UNCONSCIOUS BODY into HADDOCK'S CABIN.

          TINTIN
              I'm Tintin, by the way.

TINTIN offers his hand, which HADDOCK takes.

          HADDOCK
              Haddock, Archibald Haddock. There's a long boat up on deck - follow me.

TINTIN does a double-take as HADDOCK slips into the corridor.

          TINTIN
              Hang on a second - did you say Haddock?!?

But HADDOCK is gone... TINTIN takes off after him.
INT. KARABOUDJAN BRIDGE - NIGHT

ANGLE ON: SAKHARINE is ENRAGED! He dresses down ALLAN and TOM.

   SAKHARINE
   How could you let them escape? Find them, find them both!!

   ALLAN
   Don’t worry, we'll kill 'em, sir.

   SAKHARINE
   No, you can kill the boy. Not Haddock.

TOM is disappointed by this.

   TOM
   Oh, he’s just a hopeless old soak... we should’ve killed him long since.

SAKHARINE swings round on TOM, glowering.

   SAKHARINE
   You think it’s an accident that I chose Haddock’s ship, Haddock’s crew...
   (to ALLAN)
   Haddock’s treacherous first mate? Nothing is an accident.

SAKHARINE turns, the wind catching his hair, his eyes NARROWING. He holds up his arms, and within seconds the HUNTING FALCON lands on his wrist.

   SAKHARINE (CONT’D)
   We go back a long way, Captain Haddock and I. We have unfinished business and this time I’m going to make him pay!

INT. KARABOUJDAN UPPER CORRIDOR - NIGHT

HADDOCK is leading them through the maze of corridors... they pause to listen to sounds of FOOTSTEPS and SHOUTS.

   HADDOCK
   We have to reach a locked door at the end of this corridor. This is gonna be tricky!
TINTIN
(whispers)
You wouldn’t happen to be related
to the Haddocks of Marlinpike
Hall, would you?

HADDOCK
(guarded)
Why do you ask?

TINTIN
Why, it’s for a story I’ve been
working on ... an old shipwreck
that happened off the coast of
Barbados – a Man o’War; triple-
masted, fifty guns.

HADDOCK suddenly turns on TINTIN and slams him up against the
wall.

HADDOCK
What do you know of the Unicorn?!

TINTIN
Not a lot – that’s why I’m asking
you!

HADDOCK
(low voice)
The secret of that ship is known
only to my family. It has been
passed down from generation to
generation. My Granddaddy himself
with his dying breath told me the
tale.

HADDOCK stares off into the distance, lost in memories.

TINTIN
And?

HADDOCK
Gone.

TINTIN
What do you mean, gone?

HADDOCK
I was so upset at when he kicked
the bucket. I had no choice but to
drown my sorrows. When I woke up in
the morning, it was gone. I’d
forgotten it all.
TINTIN
Everything?!

HADDOCK
Every last word.

HADDOCK heads off down the corridor with TINTIN following.

TINTIN
Well, is there somebody else in your family, maybe they would know?

HADDOCK
(shaking his head)
Sir Francis had three sons. All but my bloodline failed. I am the last of the Haddocks.

TINTIN
Did you say ‘three’ sons?!

A couple of CREW MEMBERS are approaching the stairs. HADDOCK and TINTIN get down quickly and hide under the stairs with SNOWY.

The CREW MEMBERS move down the stairs and out the doorway SNOWY whimpers, and TINTIN tries to put his hand on SNOWY’s snout.

One the crew are gone, HADDOCK heads up the stairs, TINTIN follows.

CLOSE ON: TINTIN, realization dawning on his face.

TINTIN (CONT’D)
I know what Sakharine’s looking for!

HADDOCK
What are you raving on about?

TINTIN
It was written on the scroll.
(reciting)
“Three brothers joined; three Unicorns in company sailing in the noonday sun will speak.”

HADDOCK
Really?
TINTIN
(excited)
Sir Francis didn't make two models
of the Unicorn - he made three!
Three ships for three sons!

HADDOCK turns to TINTIN.

HADDOCK
Excellent.

HADDOCK heads off, down the corridor.

TINTIN
Sakharine's after the third model
ship.

HADDOCK try to wrench open a LOCKED DOOR.

HADDOCK
Barnacles! Someone's locked the
doors!

TINTIN
Well, is there a key?

HADDOCK
A key? Aah!

HADDOCK breathes a sigh of ALCOHOL FUMES into TINTIN's
face, who coughs.

HADDOCK (CONT'D)
Yes ... now that would be the
problem!

HADDOCK returns the way they came, and TINTIN follows.

INT. KARABOUDJAN SLEEPING QUARTERS - NIGHT

A door quietly swings OPEN, revealing a gloomy dormitory full
of swaying bunks. Ugly, drunken CREWMEN sprawled in hammocks,
SNORING.

CLOSE ON: HADDOCK and TINTIN peering round the DOOR.

HADDOCK
(whispers)
Mr. Jaggerman, top bunk in the
center - keeper of the keys.
Careful mind, he's a restless
sleeper on account of the tragic
loss of his eyelids.
TINTIN
He lost his eyelids?

HADDOCK
Aye, now that was a card game to remember – ah, you really had to be there. I’d do this myself, Tintin, but you’ve a lighter tread and less chance of waking the boys.

TINTIN
Are you sure this is a good idea?

HADDOCK
You’ve nothing to worry about.

ANGLE ON: TINTIN sets off, sneaking between the bunks, towards the sleeping MR. JAGGERMAN – the KEYS are visible in his hand.

Haddock (CONT’D)
(loud whisper)
Provided they all stay asleep.

TINTIN struggles to keep his balance with the heavy yaw and roll of the ship.

HADDOCK (CONT’D)
Don’t, I wouldn’t get too close to Mr. Hobbs – he’s very handy with a razor. And I’d steer clear of Mr. Gitch – sacked as shepherd on account of his ‘animal husbandry’!

TINTIN and SNOWY climb onto the high bunk, reaching for the KEYS hanging from JAGGERMAN’S HAND.

ANGLE ON: TINTIN’S FINGERTIPS nearly touch the KEYS.

He grabs SNOWY and holds him out towards the KEYS, but SNOWY instead goes for JAGGERMAN’S SANDWICH.

TINTIN
Not the sandwich! The keys!

TINTIN falls in a cascade of SNORING SAILORS, DEAD FISH and a large SHARK CARCASS. SAILORS from surrounded bunks pile on top of him.

CLOSE ON: SNOWY stands on top of the pile of SAILORS. TINTIN’S FIST, KEYS included, burst from the pile. HADDOCK quietly claps.
INT. KARABOUDJAN UPPER CORRIDOR - NIGHT

ANGLE ON: TINTIN hands the KEYS to an impressed HADDOCK.

          HADDOCK
          You're a brave lad, Tintin - my
          heart was in my mouth, I don't mind
          telling you.

          HADDOCK unlocks the rusty door.

          HADDOCK (CONT'D)
          Well, that is, if it was my heart.
          You know, judging by my stomach, it
          could've been anything, really.

          TINTIN
          Hurry up, Captain. We've no time to
          lose -

TINTIN freezes in DISBELIEF! The door opens to reveal a
storeroom filled with BOTTLES OF WHISKEY and RUM!

          HADDOCK
          Bingo! Just the necessities, of
          course!

          HADDOCK quickly stuffs a few bottles into various pockets! He
kisses one of the BOTTLES.

          HADDOCK (CONT'D)
          To the lifeboats.

TINTIN stands AGHAST for a MOMENT, then follows HADDOCK.

INT. SHIP CORRIDOR - MOMENTS LATER

The DECK of the SHIP is covered with SAILORS searching with
FLASHLIGHTS. A group of WELDERS working on a SEAPLANE.

          ALLAN
          Keep your eyes peeled!

          SAILOR #1
          I'll go aft!

          SAILOR #2
          Any sign of him, Buster?

          SAILOR #3
          Not yet! Watch yourself, the boss
          says he's a handful.
ANGLE ON: HADDOCK stumbles out a door, onto the DECK and almost into TOM. TINTIN pulls him back inside at the last moment.

TINTIN grabs HADDOCK bottle of WHISKEY, and goes back to clobber TOM. Just as TINTIN swings his ARM, HADDOCK snatches the BOTTLE ... TINTIN knocks TOM out with his FIST, glares and HADDOCK and shakes his sore hand.

EXT. KARABOUDJAN DECK - NIGHT

It’s a rough, stormy ocean. HADDOCK, TINTIN and SNOWY move towards the lifeboat. HADDOCK and TINTIN quickly remove the ropes from the hooks and start to push the boat out towards the edge.

ALLAN
Boss wants us to check the coms.
Come out of it.

SUDDENLY a door opens, we hear A MORSE CODE noise. ALLAN and TOM pass by.

ALLAN (CONT’D)
Come on, in here.

HADDOCK points in their direction.

HADDOCK
It’s Allan!

ALLAN and TOM walk through a door.

TINTIN
Is that the bridge?

HADDOCK
Aye, on the other side of the radio room.

TINTIN
Radio room?

TINTIN gestures for HADDOCK to stay put in the shadows.

TINTIN (CONT’D)
(hushed)
Wait here, Captain. Sound the alarm if anyone comes.

HADDOCK
Careful, Tintin!
TINTIN has already moved towards the stairs ... SNOWY follows.

SAILORS SEARCHING SHIP
I said keep searching! There's no one here! Who we looking for, anyway?

ANGLE ON: TINTIN sneaks to the RADIO ROOM door. ALLAN is over TOM'S shoulder as he reads an incoming Morse message:

TOM
Message just come through, boss.

ALLAN
What's it say?

TOM
(reading)
"The Milanese Nightingale has landed. Waiting in the wings for action."

TINTIN
(to himself)
Milanese Nightingale.

TINTIN frowns... ALLAN calmly plucks the RADIO MESSAGE from TOM'S HAND.

ALLAN
(relieved)
Now pray this cheers him up!

As they disappear, TINTIN sneaks in.

INT. KARABOUDJAN RADIO ROOM - NIGHT

TINTIN enters the room with SNOWY. SNOWY sees a SANDWICHES, jumps on the desk and begins to eat, fighting a RAT for it.

ANGLE ON: TINTIN quickly searches for any clues to the ship's destination. He scans charts, looks at written messages. He picks up one of the notes and reads it.

TINTIN
Bagghar.

TINTIN notices a BROCHURE with a picture of BAGGHAR and BEN SALAAD.
TINTIN (CONT’D)
What’s this?

He picks it up – and opens it at random. We see a picture of the town.

TINTIN (CONT’D)
(reading)
The sultanate of Bagghar.

A second page. A portrait of BEN SALAAD.

TINTIN (CONT’D)
(reading)
Ruled over by Sheik Omar Ben Salaad, whose love of music and culture is matched only by his love of...

TINTIN turns the page. He sees something that we don’t.

TINTIN (CONT’D)
Great snakes!

He moves over to nearby wall covered in maps, quickly scanning for something...

TINTIN (CONT’D)
Bagghar. The port of Bagghar. Morocco!

SUDDENLY, TINTIN gets an idea! TINTIN shoves the brochure into his pocket, quickly puts the headphones on and sits at the desk, fiddling with the frequency knobs on the old radio.

EXT. KARABOUDJAN DECK – NIGHT

ANGLE ON: HADDOCK holding onto the boat.

HADDOCK
Tintin!

ANGLE ON: A sleeping CREW MEMBER, huddled in the lifeboat! He wakes with a start and is surprised to find CAPTAIN HADDOCK holding one of the lifeboat ropes... he produces a PISTOL!

CREW MEMBER
Hey! Put your hands up!

ANGLE ON: HADDOCK raises his HANDS, letting go of the ROPE... the LIFEBOAT drops into the water, while the CREW MEMBER gets tangled in the ROPE and swings only a few feet from the WATER.
HADDOCK
And let that be a lesson to you!

HADDOCK moves down to untie the next BOAT.

CREW MEMBER
Help me!

INT. KARABOUDJAN RADIO ROOM - NIGHT

CLOSE ON: MORSE TAPPER ... click ... click ... click ...
TINTIN is BUSY sending a MESSAGE.

INT. KARABOUDJAN RADIO ROOM - NIGHT

SUDDENLY! TOM OPENS THE SIDE DOOR AND SEES TINTIN!

TOM
(shouting)
In here! He’s in here!

He raises his gun. SNOWY jumps up and grabs his arm, the gun FIRES, giving TINTIN a valuable second to REACT.

TINTIN stands and punches TOM. We really see TINTIN’S ability to look after himself against a THUG. With the second punch TOM bups into ALLAN as he is coming out.

ALLAN gets tangled up with TOM.

TINTIN grabs TOM’s gun and runs out with SNOWY.

ALLAN chases TINTIN, TOM follows.

EXT. KARABOUDJAN DECK - NIGHT

TINTIN races from the RADIO ROOM as a GUARD spots HADDOCK.

GUARD
Here! By the lifeboats!

ALLAN
Get out the way!

TINTIN runs past with ALLAN right behind him.

ALLAN (CONT’D)
Get him!

GUARD
Right!
ALLAN and the GUARD open fire. TINTIN runs among cargo crates and punches another GUARD to the ground. The GUARD recovers and fires a spray of bullets at TINTIN.

GUARD #2
Why, you little...!

ANGLE ON: TINTIN and SNOWY races along the deck and down the stairs onto the deck BELOW, and SPRINT towards HADDOCK and the LIFEBOAT.

SAILORS SEARCHING SHIP
Oy! He's up there! Get him, lads!

TINTIN has TOM'S PISTOL. HADDOCK falls into the LIFEBOAT where SNOWY is already waiting. The ROPE slips, and the BOAT dangles precariously. HADDOCK slams into a SEAT, smashing a number of BOTTLES hidden in his POCKETS; WHISKEY and BROKEN GLASS fall into the OCEAN below.

TINTIN returns GUNFIRE, as ALLAN enters and fires at him. TINTIN fires at a SPOTLIGHT, hits the "ON" lever and turning the light on, blinding the CREW pursuing him.

TINTIN jumps into the boat.

CLOSE ON: TINTIN raises the PISTOL, takes AIM...

BANG! TINTIN shoots the last ROPE, and the LIFEBOAT falls into the OCEAN with TINTIN, HADDOCK and SNOWY clinging onto it! A SAILOR is tangled in the ROPE.

SAILOR
Help me!

An angry SAKHARINE strolls onto the DECK.

ANGLE ON: TINTIN and HADDOCK row for their lives.

ANGLE ON: ALLAN runs onto the BRIDGE.

ALLAN
Turn the ship 'round! Give me a flare!

INT. ROWBOAT/OCEAN - NIGHT

ANGLE ON: ALLAN runs back onto the DECK and fires a SIGNAL FLARE into the SKY.

ANGLE ON: TINTIN lies down in the BOAT.
TINTIN
Captain! Get down! Get down!

A CREW MEMBER spots a ROWBOAT using the SEARCHLIGHT.

CREW MEMBER #2
There he is!

ALLAN
Get out of the way!

TOM runs to the BRIDGE.

TOM
Now full ahead! Full speed!

The KARABOUDJAN speeds towards the BOAT.

ALLAN
Got you now!

ANGLE ON: TINTIN and HADDOCK continue to hide.

TINTIN
Stay down!

The ROWBOAT is demolished by the MASSIVE SHIP.

CREW MEMBER #3
Look! Down ‘ere!

ANGLE ON: EMPTY BOTTLES float around rowboat debris as it sinks into the OCEAN.

ANGLE ON: The second ROWBOAT, TINTIN and HADDOCK’S ROWBOAT. TINTIN sits up; they row away from the KARABOUDJAN.

ANGLE ON: SAKHARINE approaches TOM. He is absolutely furious.

SAKHARINE
Idiots! You idiots! What have you done?

TOM
We killed them, boss. Like you wanted!

SAKHARINE grabs TOM. About to throw him overboard.

SAKHARINE
No. Not ‘like’ I wanted. I needed Haddock alive.
ALLAN
Wait a minute, boss. There are two boats missing.

TOM
So that one must have been a decoy!

SAKHARINE'S EYES suddenly go to the ground beneath his feet. He bends over and he picks up the small piece of paper with the Morse code and the word "Bagghar" written on it.

SAKHARINE holds up the piece of paper.

SAKHARINE
They're on to us, and our destination. Find them! Make absolutely certain they never reach Bagghar!

TOM
Yes, boss.

SAKHARINE turns his head and we pan with his turn onto the SEA PLANE already rigged on a CATAPULT LAUNCHER at the stern of the KARABOUDJAN.

EXT. OCEAN/ROW BOAT - DAWN

We pick up TINTIN, SNOWY and HADDOCK after their escape from the KARABOUDJAN. TINTIN rowing. They are all alone on the wide, wide open sea.

TINTIN
We have to get to Bagghar ahead of Sakharine.

HADDOCK
I know! I know!

(beat)
Why?

TINTIN
Because he has the third model ship.

HADDOCK
How do you know?

TINTIN takes out the BROCHURE that he found in the RADIO ROOM.
TINTIN
The sheikh collects old ships and
this is the prize of his
collection.

TINTIN opens the brochure and we see a picture of the third
UNICORN, exhibited in a glass case. The considerable
thickness of the glass is apparent.

HADDOCK
Blistering blue barnacles, that is
the Unicorn!

TINTIN
Captain, do you see the distortion
around the model – it means Ben
Salaad exhibits it in a bullet
proof glass case in his palace!

HADDOCK
And Sakharine is going there to
steal it!

TINTIN
He has a secret weapon. The
Milanese Nightingale. But that
won’t be enough to solve the
mystery, and that is why Sakharine
needs you. That’s why he made you
his prisoner! There is something he
needs you to remember.

HADDOCK
I don’t follow you.

TINTIN
I read it in a book. That only a
ture Haddock can discover the
secret of the Unicorn.

They look at one another.

HADDOCK
I don’t remember anything about
anything!

TINTIN
But you must know about your
ancestor, Sir Francis. It’s your
family legacy!

HADDOCK
My memory isn’t what it used to be.
TINTIN
What did it use to be?

HADDOCK
I’ve forgotten.

EXT. OCEAN/ROW BOAT – DAWN – CONTINUOUS

TINTIN
Captain, can you get us to Bagghar?

HADDOCK
What sort of a stupid question is that? Give me those oars, I’ll show you some real seamanship, laddie.

ANGLE ON: HADDOCK stands and moves to TINTIN, snatches up the oars.

HADDOCK (CONT’D)
I’ll not be doubted by some pipesqueak tuft of ginger and his irritating dog! I am master and commander of the seas!

He swings them expertly over his shoulder, turning his back on TINTIN.

CLOSE ON: WHACK! The OAR clunks TINTIN on the side of his HEAD, knocking him out cold. AS HADDOCK completes his turn he hits SNOWY out cold too!

HADDOCK (CONT’D)
I know these waters better than the warts on my mother’s face!

HADDOCK glances back over his shoulder, where TINTIN and SNOWY are slumped unconscious against the side of the ROWBOAT.

HADDOCK (CONT’D)
Look at the pair of them – fast asleep! Typical landlubbers, no stamina these days! Nevermind. I’ll get ya there, Tintin.

ANGLE ON: HADDOCK heaves back on the OARS ...

EXT. SILK’S APARTMENT – DAY

ANGLE ON: The familiar PATENT SHOES and GLOVED HANDS of the PICKPOCKET.
THOMSON and THOMPSON stroll down the street, SHOPS and APARTMENTS behind them. The PICKPOCKET, ARISTIDES SILK, sees them coming.

THOMPSON
Look, Thomson! There's the fellow.

THOMPSON
Uh huh!

He tries to look casual as he reaches for his KEYS.

SILK
Oh my!

THOMPSON
Mr. Silk?

SILK
Yes.

THOMPSON
My name is Thompson.

THOMPSON
And Thomson.

THOMPSON/THOMPSON
We're police officers!

SILK
Oh. Oh, crumbs!

SILK'S first thought is to make a run for it. He turns and does just that. A CRASH is heard. The THOM(?)SONS run over to him.

THOMPSON
Goodness gracious!

THOMPSON
Mr. Silk!

SILK has slammed into an OLD WOMAN carrying a cage of CANARIES from a PET SHOP. He is in a heap with three little YELLOW CANARIES fluttering around his head.

THOMPSON
Are you ok?

THOMPSON
Poor fella...
THOMSON
Are you all right?

THOMSON
Are you all right, sir?

The little CANARIES are real. A PET SHOP OWNER retrieves them with a net as a MAN helps the OLD WOMAN.

THOMSON and THOMPSON together get SILK to his feet.

THOMPSON (CONT'D)
No need to run away, sir.

THOMSON
No, no. You see. Yesterday, we very nearly caught the pickpocket who's been terrorizing the town.

SILK
(dazed)
Pickpocket.

THOMSON
We pulled his jacket off and inside we found a wallet.

THOMPSON produces the WALLET.

THOMSON
A wallet with your name and address.

SILK
(dazed)
That's my wallet.

THOMPSON
It's obviously stolen from you.

SILK
No, no! That's my wallet!

THOMSON
Are you all right, sir?

THOMPSON
We didn't mean to startle you. Let us help you into your apartment.
INT. SILK’S APARTMENT - DAY

ANGLE ON: The DOOR to SILK’S APARTMENT bursts open, the THOM(?)SONS are framed in the doorway ... a battered and baffled SILK stands between them, attempting to fend them off.

SILK
(nervous)
Thank you so much. No need to come in. I’ll be quite alright really.

THOMSON
No, we insist!

THOMPSON
Better safe than sorry. It’s the least we can do.

SILK
Oh, thank you.

THOMPSON
There we are.

SILK takes a seat in his ARMCHAIR.

ANGLE ON: A bookshelf packed with HUNDREDS of WALLET sits in the middle of the room. All of WALLETs are nearly labeled and filed.

The THOM(?)SON’s look at it, stunned. SILK looks at them nervously - figuring the game is up!

THOMPSON (CONT’D)
Good grief, what’s all this?

SILK
It’s my... collection.

THOMPSON
What a lot of wallets.

SILK
I can’t help it... it started with coin purses and sort of went on from there, really...

THOMPSON
You want to be careful. Haven’t you heard? There’s a pickpocket about!
THOMSON  
(looking around the room)  
Yes, he'd love this - can you imagine?

SILK  
(offended)  
What do you mean "pickpocket?"

THOMSON  
Oh, a master criminal: a bag-snatching, purse-pilfering, wallet-lifting, sneak thief.

CLOSE ON: SILK's lower lip starts to quiver, his composure goes.

SILK  
(confessing)  
I'm not a bad person ... I'm a kleptomaniac.

THOMSON looks confused.

THOMSON  
A what?

THOMSON leans over and whispers.

THOMSON  
(whispers)  
It's a fear of open spaces.

THOMSON  
(whispers)  
Poor man. No wonder he keeps his wallets in the living room.

SILK  
(rapture)  
Wallets! I just can't resist the lovely little things. It's a, it's a harmless little habit, really.

THOMSON takes a WALLET and checks the NAME TAG.

THOMSON  
Good heavens! Thomson - look at this! His name's Thompson too!

THOMSON  
Oh, what a coincidence!

THOMSON takes another WALLET off the shelf.
THOMSON (CONT’D)
No, Thompson, this is Thomson without a ‘P’ - as in psychic.

THOMPSON
No, no, no, it’s Thompson with a ‘P’ - as in psychologist.

SILK
Look at this one. A green one that
I managed to pick from a pickpocket
actually pickpocketing at the time.
And this one...

THOMPSON
How dare you, sir?

THOMPSON
How dare YOU, sir?

THOMPSON
Good heavens, Thomson - you’ve got it all wrong.

THOMSON brandishes a WALLET at THOMPSON. BOTH THOM(P)SONS are taking WALLET after WALLET off the shelf, until they have an armful each!

THOMPSON
No, you have it all wrong and there is a ‘P’ in psychic.

THOMPSON
I’m not your sidekick. You are mine.

SILK
Oh, smell it, won’t you? Piggy leather. Oh, I love piggy leather.

THOMPSON
How dare you?

THOMPSON
How dare you? I met you first.

THOMPSON
I met you first.

THOMPSON
No, you didn’t.

THOMPSON
Yes, I did.
THOMSON
No, you did not.

THOMSON
Yes, I did.

THOMSON
Didn’t!

THOMSON
Did!

THOMSON
Didn’t!

SILK is talking to himself while the THOMPSON and THOMSON argue.

SILK
(breaking down)
Listen! I can’t stand it anymore!
Alright, I’ll come quietly!

SILK begins thrusting WALLETS at the THOM(P)SONS.

SILK (CONT’D)
(sobbing)
Take them, take them -

THOMSON
What are you doing?

SILK
Take them all!

THOMSON
Stop it!

THOMPSON
Pull yourself together, man! We can’t take your wallets, do we look like thieves??

THOMSON
Good Heavens, Thompson! This looks familiar .. it can’t be?

THOMPSON looks at THOMSON’s wallet as he opens it.

THOMPSON
It is!

BOTH THOM(P)SONS

Tintin!
EXT. OCEAN/ROW BOAT - DAY

ANGLE ON: HADDOCK is rowing... cold and exhausted. TINTIN and SNOWY are huddled asleep in the prow of the boat.

    HADDOCK
    (to himself)
    Oh, so cold! And thirsty! My throat
    is parched! Let's see if there's
    any fresh water...

EXT. OCEAN/ROW BOAT - DAY

HADDOCK leans over to a hatch in the prow, opens it and finds... a BOTTLE of RUM!

    HADDOCK
    (conflicted)
    Ohhh! What have we here?

EXT. OCEAN/ROW BOAT - DAY

ANGLE ON: A sleeping TINTIN slowly opens his eyes.

    HADDOCK
    Tintin! Tintin! Come and warm
    yourself, laddy.

ANOTHER ANGLE: On a BLAZING FIRE in the middle of the BOAT. HADDOCK casually warms himself.

    TINTIN
    Captain... ? What have you done?

    HADDOCK
    No need to thank me!

    TINTIN
    (shocked)
    What?

    HADDOCK
    Well, you looked a little cold. So
    I lit a wee fire.

    TINTIN
    In a boat? No, those are our oars!
    We need those oars!

    HADDOCK
    Yes, but not for much longer!
TINTIN
Have you gone mad?

ANGLE ON: TINTIN leans over the side of the boat and begins to scoop water in his hands, trying to put out the flames.

TINTIN (CONT’D)
Quick, Captain! Help me! Captain, help me quick!

HADDOCK
He’s right! What have I done? What have I done?

HADDOCK picks up the BOTTLE which is still half full of alcohol. HADDOCK upturns the bottle on the flames which shoot up -

TINTIN
No, Captain - not that!

ANGLE ON: The BOAT, off in the distance, erupts into FLAMES.

HADDOCK
Thundering typhoons!

ANGLE ON: TINTIN and HADDOCK are sitting on the upturned boat. A small hole in the boat and glowing embers sit between them.

TINTIN
Well, this is a fine mess.

HADDOCK
I’m weak...

TINTIN
We’re stranded here...

HADDOCK
Selfish...

TINTIN
With no hope of rescue.

HADDOCK
Hopeless!

TINTIN
While Sakharine and his men are halfway to Bagghar.

HADDOCK
Poor, miserable wretch!
TINTIN finally turns to HADDOCK.

**TINTIN**
Yes, all right! That’s enough of that.

**HADDOCK**
It was his fault, you see. It was Sir Francis!

**TINTIN**
Tell me, how do you work that one out?

**HADDOCK**
Because he was a figurehead of great courage and bold exploits! No one like him has ever existed in my family! Why do you think I drink? It’s because I know I’ll never be like him! No, it’s far better that I end it now and put us both out of our misery.

He shakes TINTIN’s hand as SNOWY whines; he attracts TINTIN’S ATTENTION to a DISTANT SPECK in the sky.

**TINTIN**
What is it, Snowy?

ANGLE ON: An approaching AIRPLANE ... TINTIN’s concerned.

**HADDOCK**
I’m going to lower myself into the sea... into the cold embrace into the big blue.

The SEAPLANE has spotted the upturned boat... it starts to turn towards them.

**TINTIN**
Those are Portuguese markings.

He turns to HADDOCK.

**HADDOCK**
Are you even listening?

**TINTIN**
Where is the Karaboudjan registered?
CLOSE ON: HADDOCK spots the AIRPLANE ... he leaps onto the hull of the upturned boat and starts waving and jumping alarmingly!

HADDOCK
We’re saved! We’re saved!!! Oh, it’s a sign from above!!!

SUDDENLY! MACHINE GUN FIRE spits from the SEAPLANE, as it zooms low over TINTIN and HADDOCK, STRAFING THEM! TINTIN and HADDOCK nearly fall into the WATER as BULLETS shred the HULL.

HE STANDS UP AGAIN.

ANGLE ON: The SEAPLANE turns for another ATTACK RUN ...
HADDOCK is standing on the HULL, clenching his PISTIS, as if BOXING with air. The UPTURNED BOAT rocks like crazy.

HADDOCK (CONT’D)
Troglodytes!

TINTIN
Captain, get down!

HADDOCK
(yelling)
Slave traders! Mutant malingerers! Freshwater politicians!!

ANGLE ON: The SEAPLANE starts its attack run.

TINTIN produces his PISTOL, checks the CLIP.

TINTIN
Bad news, Captain - we’ve only got one bullet!

HADDOCK
(aghast)
What’s the good news?

TINTIN
We’ve got one bullet.

ANGLE ON: TINTIN holds his ground as BULLETS ZING around him..

TINTIN aims, using BOTH HANDS to steady his PISTOL.

BANG! He fires! The SEAPLANE roars low over their HEADS ...

HADDOCK falls into the OCEAN.
ANGLE ON: Black SMOKE spews out of the SEAPLANE'S ENGINE! The SEAPLANE loses power and is forced to LAND.

HADDOCK
(joyous)
You got him!

EXT. SEA PLANE/OCEAN - CONTINUOUS

HADDOCK
Ah! Well done, my boy.

TINTIN and SNOWY jump into the water.

EXT. SEA PLANE/OCEAN - DAY

ANGLE ON: The PLANE bobs uselessly on the water. TWO PILOTS jump out onto the FLOATS before it comes to a stop. They move to the engine and open the hood. As a huge cloud of smoke comes out, the pilot quickly checks under the cowling.

EXT. OCEAN/ROW BOAT - DAY

TINTIN and HADDOCK hide on the far side of the overturned ROWBOAT.

TINTIN
Stay here, Captain.

TINTIN dives under the water.

HADDOCK
Tintin! Tintin!

EXT. SEA PLANE/OCEAN - DAY

The PILOT continues to inspect the PLANE.

PILOT #1
Don't take your eyes off of them!

PILOT #2
Hurry up!

PILOT #1
Just as I thought, the ignition lead has been cut! Ah! Lucky shot.
EXT. SEAPLANE/OCEAN - DAY

TINTIN'S COIF cuts through the water like a SHARK'S FIN.

PILOT #2
One more pass and we will finish them off.

Suddenly, TINTIN surfaces at the end of the FLOAT... PISTOL aimed straight at the PILOTS!

TINTIN
Put your hands in the air!

THE PILOTS stare at TINTIN, amazed.

TINTIN (CONT'D)

Now!

INT. SEA PLANE - MOMENTS LATER

TINTIN reads through the FLIGHT INSTRUCTION MANUAL. HADDOCK sits behind him. The PILOTS are tied up in the back of the plane.

HADDOCK
(worried)
You, you do know what your doing, eh, Tintin?

TINTIN
Um, more or less.

TINTIN flicks a switch. The plane GRUMBLIES into life.

HADDOCK
Well, which is it? More or less?

The PLANE taxis along the WATER.

TINTIN
Relax! I interviewed a pilot once.

EXT. SEAPLANE/SKY - DAY

The SEAPLANE rises into the SKY.

TINTIN
Which way to North Africa?

The SEAPLANE SOARS through the sky, several hundred feet above the WAVES.
ANGLE ON: A DARK SPECK below them... TINTIN swoops down for a CLOSER LOOK: the KARABOUDJAN! It’s ploughing towards BAGGHAR at high speed.

TINTIN (CONT’D)
Captain! Look! We’ve caught up with them!

HADDOCK
Wonderful! But do you think we might find another way to North Africa that doesn’t take us through that Wall of Death?

EXT./INT. SEAPLANE IN STORM - DAY

ANGLE ON: The SEAPLANE is flying DIRECTLY towards a TOWERING WALL of brewing BLACK CLOUD, RAIN SQUALL and HIGH WIND.

TINTIN
We can’t turn back - not now!
(to himself)
Not now.

The SEAPLANE starts to buck and shake in the GATHERING STORM.

ANGLE ON: The TINY PLANE is tossed around as the STORM rages around it. Lightening forks FLASH frighteningly close. The SEAPLANE PITCHES and ROLLS alarmingly.

HADDOCK spots MEDICINAL SPIRITS and quietly reaches for the BOTTLE. TINTIN spots him and swats his hand away.

TINTIN (CONT’D)
No, Captain! Those a surgical spirits for medicinal purposes only.

HADDOCK
Quiet right, laddy, quiet right.

The STORM outside worsens, and the PLANE does a BARREL ROLL. Once TINTIN rights the PLANE, HADDOCK makes another grab for the SPIRITS. He unscrews the CAP as the PLANE goes into a DIVE. The PILOTS float off the floor of the COCKPIT and the ALCOHOL emerges in the form of large GLOBULES that hover in front of HADDOCK’s face.

SNOWY floats into view and SLURPS up the ALCOHOL! TINTIN pulls the PLANE out of the dive at the last moment and SNOWY crashes to the FLOOR and BURPS.
The PLANE goes into another dive and more alcohol emerges from the BOTTLE. HADDOCK grabs SNOWY’S TONGUE and sucks it down as quick as he can.

TINTIN steadies the PLANE again and the PILOTS are knocked out by the return of gravity. The propellar comes to a stop.

TINTIN

No, no, no!

A RED LIGHT FLASHES next to the FUEL GAUGE.

TINTIN (CONT’D)
Fuel tank! It’s almost empty.
Captain! This may sound crazy but I’ve got a plan. The alcohol in that bottle may give us a few more miles. I need you to climb out of the plane and pour it into the fuel tank.

HADDOCK
Christopher Columbus!

HADDOCK buckles the belt on his PARACHUTE.

HADDOCK opens the door for a moment. He quickly pulls it shut.

HADDOCK (CONT’D)
(defiantly)
There’s a terrible storm out there! And it’s raining!

TINTIN
And you call yourself a Haddock?

HADDOCK glowers, getting his nerve before again opening the door. He immediately falls out of view.

TINTIN (CONT’D)
Captain! Captain! Can you hear me?
Captain! Captain!

HADDOCK’S head slowly appears in TINTIN’s window.

TINTIN (CONT’D)
You’re doing fine! Now, pour the bottle into the tank. We’re running on fumes!

HADDOCK has an idea.
HADDOCK

Fumes!

HADDOCK straddles the plane and opens the FUEL CAP. Inside the cockpit, the empty ALCOHOL BOTTLE hits TINTIN'S foot.

TINTIN

Oh, no.

HADDOCK takes a big breath and releases an ENORMOUS BELCH into the TANK. Inside the ENGINE, PISTONS fire manically and FLAMES shoot out from the propeller as it spins again.

HADDOCK sits up and block the WINDSHIELD.

TINTIN (CONT’D)

Captain! I can’t see!

HADDOCK sees something and POINTS.

HADDOCK

Land, land!!!

TINTIN

We can’t! We’re not there yet!

HADDOCK

No, LAND!!!

Suddenly, a SAND DUNE appears and the PLANE is headed straight for it!

HADDOCK (CONT’D)

Turn!!

TINTIN does his best to avoid a the DUNE. The plane pitches wildly back and forth.

The PILOTS have regained consciousness in the back and shake their heads.

HADDOCK (CONT’D)

Starboard! Starboard! Starboard!!

TINTIN swerves the PLANE again. The PILOTS have freed themselves from their BINDINGS.

Still on the nose of the PLANE, HADDOCK is struck by LIGHTNING, YELLS and flips over the PLANE as his PARACHUTE deploys! He grabs the RUDDER before being pulled into the air, SCREAMING. The PILOTS exit the plane door, deploying their own chutes and drifting into the desert.
The PLANE hits a dune, catches fire and comes to a stop. TINTIN is thrown through the WINDSHIELD and slides down the nose of the plane, towards the spinning PROPELLER.

Haddock (Cont'd)
Hang on, Tintin! I'm coming!!

SNOWY tries to pull him to safety, but his QUIFF is trimmed by the ROTORS.

Haddock reaches the PLANE and pulls TINTIN to SAFETY, before his CHUTE is pulled into the PROPELLER and he is thrown into the SAND. SNOWY faints as TINTIN gradually regains consciousness.

EXT. DESERT - DAY

LATER... THE ICONIC SHOT

WIDE ON: SUN BLAZES DOWN mercilessly, as TINTIN, HADDOCK and SNOWY trudge through the SEA OF SAND, KNOTTED HANDKERCHIEFS on their HEADS. TINTIN is deep in thought. HADDOCK is deep in gloom.

Haddock
The Land of Thirst... the Land of Thirst! The Land of Thirst!

TINTIN
Will you stop saying that!

Haddock
(gasping)
You don't understand. I've run out, I've run out.

Angle on: Haddock gets on his knees.

Haddock (Cont'd)
You don't know what that means.

Haddock is in bad shape... TINTIN supports him.

TINTIN
Captain, we have to keep going. One step at a time. Come on, on your feet. Lean your weight on me.

Haddock
A man can only hang on for so long without his vitals.
TINTIN
Captain, calm down - there are worse things than sobering up.

ANGLE ON: HADDOCK suddenly freezes - he is staring into the distance.

HADDOCK
(excited)
Look, Tintin! We’re saved! Water! Water!

ANGLE ON: HADDOCK breaks into a run... SNOWY tries to stop him by BITING his dangling SUSPENDERS. They snap back into SNOWY’S FACE!

TINTIN
Stop, Captain! It’s just a mirage!

ANGLE ON: HADDOCK stumbles forward, ending up DAZED and CONFUSED, looking around the ROLLING SAND DUNES.

HADDOCK
(confused)
But it was here... I saw it...

TINTIN
It was just your mind playing tricks... it’s the heat.

CLOSE ON: HADDOCK, as his EYES fill with EMOTION.

HADDOCK
I have to go home.

TINTIN
What...?

HADDOCK
I have to go back to the sea.

TINTIN
Captain, you’re hallucinating!

HADDOCK points towards a dune.

HADDOCK
Look, did you ever see a more beautiful sight?

TINTIN looks towards the dune: nothing but rolling hills of blistering sand.
Haddock (cont'd)

(awestruck)
She’s turning into the wind, all
sails set!

Haddock starts to get up.

Haddock (cont'd)

Triple-masted, double decks, fifty
guns...

Close on: Tintin stops in his tracks...

Tintin

(softly)
The Unicorn?

Haddock

Isn’t she a beauty?

Tintin

(encouraging)
Yes, yes she is! Tell me, Captain -
what else can you see?

Haddock

She’s got the wind behind her! Look
at the pace she’s setting! Barely a
day out of Barbados, a hold full of
rum and the finest tobacco and the
hearts of the sailors set for home!

Angle on: Haddock’s pov... three masts in full sail, flying
the King’s ensign, slides into view in the desert - the ship
at first hidden by a high sand dune.

Transition: Haddock stumbles towards the sails and music
swells as a desert dust cloud becomes sea spray, suddenly the
sand is replaced by ocean, and we sweep towards the majestic
sight of the unicorn in full sail!

Ext. ocean/the unicorn - stormy day

Angle on: The unicorn smashes into high waves. Towering storm
clouds reach into the sky.

Angle on: Sir Francis Haddock, the splitting image of the
haddock we know, resplendent in his purple velvet naval
uniform, and flamboyant feathered hat! He is watching the
other ship through his telescope. It’s a small frigate.

Telescope pov: The skull and cross bones flag unfurls in the
strong wind. A small red pennant flies below it.
SIR FRANCIS
The red pennant ...

TRANSITION: SIR FRANCIS’S proud face dissolves into that of his descendant, a more fearful captain.

EXT. DESERT - DAY

HADDOCK turns to face TINTIN.

HADDOCK (O.S.)
The blood runs cold of every sea captain who looks upon that flag, for he knows he’s facing a fight to the death. But Sir Francis is a Haddock, and Haddock’s don’t flee.

TRANSITION: He holds up the empty bottle as a spyglass; the camera pushes into the bottle and a reflection of the Unicorn, that becomes the ship itself. We zoom in to pick up SIR FRANCIS preparing the crew.

EXT. OCEAN/THE UNICORN - STORMY DAY

SIR FRANCIS stares at the PIRATE SHIP.

SIR FRANCIS
(yelling)
All hands on deck! Gunners to their stations! Let’s unload the King’s shot into these yellow-bellied, lily livered, sea slugs!
(to his FIRST MATE)
Prepare to bring her about, Mr. Nichols!

FIRST MATE
Aye, aye Captain! Prepare to bring her about!

ANGLE ON: The UNICORN SMASHES into a VAST WAVE, which BREAKS across her bow. The PIRATE SHIP crests a wave just behind them.

EXT. OCEAN/THE UNICORN - STORMY DAY

The CREWS of the UNICORN and PIRATE SHIP trade CANNON FIRE. A hole is blown in the SAIL of the UNICORN.

The two SHIPS crash through the waves side-by-side, CANNONS firing a wild volley between them.
CANNONBALLS tear into the SAILS of the UNICORN as the JOLLY ROGER pulls closer. THE MASTS of the two SHIPS become entwined.

SIR FRANCIS
Mr. Nichols, secure the cargo!
(to the crew)
Prepare to repel all boarders!

The keel of the PIRATE SHIP skims the DECK of the UNICORN.

PIRATES pour onto the deck of the UNICORN. A violent fight ensues.

PIRATE
This way, we need more men!

SIR FRANCIS looks up and sees PIRATES crossing from one mast to the other. SIR FRANCIS climbs the mast and the ships apart. The pirate ship sinks and SIR FRANCIS uses the rigging as a ZIP LINE back to the deck.

As SIR FRANCIS battles wave after wave of PIRATES, a CLOAKED FIGURE, silhouetted by fire and smoke, approaches him.

EXT. DESERT - DAY

TRANSITION: The silhouette of RED RACKHAM turns into the shadow of CAPTAIN HADDOCK in the desert.

HADDOCK
And then he saw him, like a phantom, rising from the dead.

TINTIN
(captivated)
Who?

CLOSE ON: HADDOCK, parched. Thick grime cakes his lips, sweat runs down his face... he struggles to maintain focus.

TINTIN (CONT'D)
Captain? Captain, who did he see?

WIDE ON: HADDOCK and TINTIN standing in the desert, surrounded by endless sand. The silence is odd, after the mayhem of battle.

HADDOCK
(bewildered)
It's gone...
TINTIN
What do you mean gone? What happened next?!

HADDOCK is becoming CONFUSED, struggling to remember.

HADDOCK
By Jupiter, I have a beard! Since when did I have a beard?!

TINTIN
Captain, something happened on the Unicorn! It's the key to everything! You must try to remember!

HADDOCK
The Unicorn? What? I'm so terribly thirsty.

HADDOCK sways on his feet.

TINTIN
(alarmed)
Captain!

HADDOCK
(fearful)
Tintin... What is happening to me?

CLOSE ON: TINTIN catches HADDOCK as he falls forward, then lowers him to the ground.

TINTIN
And to think all it took was a day in the Sahara. Congratulations, Captain. You're sober.

HADDOCK
Sober...

HADDOCK passes out.

WIDE ON: The solitary figure of TINTIN holding the inert body of HADDOCK in his arms... against the vast backdrop of the SAHARA as the huge ORANGE SUN sinks below the HORIZON.

EXT. DESERT STORM - NIGHT

QUICK IMAGES: The swirling sand glows in the FULL MOON.

SNOWY yowls in a plaintive call.
Looming SHAPES approach, carrying LANTERNS and FLASHLIGHTS, GLOWING EERILY, and CASTING DANCING SHADOWS into the SWIRLING SAND.

THEY SEE the BODIES of TINTIN, and HADDOCK almost covered beneath drifts of SAND. A dashing LIEUTENANT DELCOURT leans over the body of TINTIN.

DELCOURT
Good dog! This one’s alive! Check the other!

AFGHAR OUTPOST SOLDIER
Yes sir!

The other SOLDIER inspects HADDOCK.

EXT. AFGHAR OUTPOST COURTYARD - DAY

A COLONIAL FOREIGN LEGION FORT. TINTIN and SNOWY are led by a prim, proper, pipe-smoking BRITISH OFFICER, DELCOURT.

DELCOURT
Lieutenant Delcourt, welcome to the Afghar Outpost.

TINTIN
Thank you, Lieutenant. We owe you our lives. Did you find my friend?

DELCOURT
Yes, but he’s not in good shape, I’m afraid. He’s still suffering the effects of acute dehydration. He’s quite delirious. Why don’t we pay him a visit?

INT. AFGHAR OUTPOST INFIRMARY - DAY

ANGLE ON: DELCOURT opens a DOOR to reveal a makeshift infirmary.

HADDOCK turns towards them as they enter the room.

DELCOURT
Ah, Haddock - you’re awake, good. I have a visitor for you.

DELCOURT steps back to reveal TINTIN.

TINTIN
Captain...
HADDOCK turns to greet his GUEST ... NO SIGN of recognition.

HADDOCK
Hello! I think you've got the wrong room.

TINTIN
Captain? It's Tintin. Our plane crashed in the desert, don't you remember?

HADDOCK
Plane? No, no, I'm a naval man, myself. I never fly if I can help it. He's got me confused with someone else.

(looks at the glass he is holding)
What is this peculiar liquid? There's no bouquet, it's completely transparent.

DELCOURT
Why, it's water.

HADDOCK
What will they think of next?

DELCOURT
Well, we suspect he has a concussion, heatstroke, delirium.

SNOWY goes to the table next to the door, he grabs a BOTTLE of "MEDICINE".

CLOSE ON: The "MEDICINE" is a BOTTLE of WHISKEY!!!!

TINTIN
He's sober.

TINTIN takes the water glass and hands it to DELCOURT. TINTIN is focused on HADDOCK.

TINTIN (CONT'D)
Now Captain, out in the desert.

HADDOCK
The desert?

SNOWY walks back and sets the bottle on the side table next to HADDOCK.
TINTIN
Yes, you were talking about Sir Francis.

He sits.

HADDOCK
Sir who?

TINTIN
Sir Francis, and you were telling me about what happened on the Unicorn.

HADDOCK
The Unicorn?

TINTIN
Yes.

HADDOCK
The stuff that dreams are made of, wee children's dreams.

TINTIN
No, the ship! Oh, please try to remember, Captain. Lives are at risk.

HADDOCK reaches for the glass, SNOWY pushes the bottle in place, HADDOCK grabs the bottle and drinks the WHISKEY in one gulp!

TINTIN looks back in horror.

TINTIN (CONT'D)
Snowy! What have you done?

HADDOCK
Ahhhhhh!

TINTIN turns to DELCOURT and the SOLDIERS.

TINTIN
I'd stand back if I were you.

HADDOCK starts to get louder.

TINTIN (CONT'D)
(urgent)
Out! Everybody out of the room!!!!

They all run out; TINTIN grabs SNOWY and closes the door!
TRANSITION: HADDOCK jumps at the DOOR, sending splinters in all directions.

INT. AFGHAR OUTPOST STORE ROOM - DAY

HADDOCK runs along a wall, LUNGING with his SWORD!

HADDOCK
Show yourself, Red Rackham!

EXT. OCEAN/THE UNICORN - STORMY DAY

RED RACKHAM steps out of the shadows and into the light. SIR FRANCIS sees him, runs forward to engage but is intercepted by two PIRATES.

TRANSITION: The two PIRATES become TINTIN and DELCOURT, circling HADDOCK.

INT. AFGHAR OUTPOST OFFICE - DAY

ANGLE ON: HADDOCK leaps on a TABLE, facing off against the INVISIBLE FOE he sees in his MIND'S EYE.

HADDOCK
(roaring)
If it's a fight you want - you've met your match!

TINTIN
A fight with who?

TINTIN looks on, SNOWY safely with him.

HADDOCK
(charging)
To the death...

EXT. OCEAN/THE UNICORN - STORMY DAY

SIR FRANCIS
RED RACKHAM!

ANGLE ON: RED RACKHAM side-steps SIR FRANCIS, takes off his CAPE and throws it over SIR FRANCIS. He swings SIR FRANCIS around, sending him crashing into crates and barrels. A falling piece of the mast turns into a WOODEN CEILING FAN.
INT. AFGHAR OUTPOST OFFICE - DAY

ANGLE ON: A HEAVY WOODEN CEILING FAN crashes down on HADDOCK’S HEAD, knocking him SENSELESS!

TRANSITION: SOLDIERS run into the office. TINTIN stops them. We swirl around to see the oncoming GUARDS become PIRATES.

EXT. OCEAN/THE UNICORN - STORMY DAY

SWORDS surround SIR FRANCIS, who lies on the deck.

INT. AFGHAR OUTPOST OFFICE - DAY

TINTIN crouches down beside HADDOCK.

TINTIN
(concerned)
Captain?

ANGLE ON: HADDOCK sits up, ashen-faced... a desolate light in his eyes. TINTIN takes his sword and hands it to DELCOURT.

HADDOCK
(quiet, reverie)
I remember everything now. Everything Granddaddy told me. The Unicorn was taken. The pirates were now the masters of the ship.

TINTIN
The crew surrendered?

HADDOCK
Granddaddy said that Red Rackham called Sir Francis the King’s dog - a pirate hunter sent to reclaim their hard won plunder.

EXT. THE UNICORN - NIGHT

SIR FRANCIS is lashed to the MAST by RED RACKHAM’S MEN.

RED RACKHAM
Why would I waste my time on rum, tobacco, molasses, and dates when you have a more valuable cargo on board? Where is it?

SIR FRANCIS
You’ll have to kill me first.
RED RACKHAM
(smiling evilly)
Not first, no. I will start with your men.

TRANSITION: RED RACKHAM raises his sword. We push past to SIR FRANCIS on the MAST. TINTIN steps behind the MAST and we transition back to the OUTPOST with the CAPTAIN standing by his CHAIR.

INT. AFGHAR OUTPOST OFFICE - DAY

HADDOCK is back on his feet; he moves around the room and TINTIN follows.

HADDOCK
To save his men, he would give up the secret cargo.

TINTIN
And where was it?

TRANSITION: HADDOCK walks to the BOOKSHELF and slowly removes one, as though he is pulling a LEVER.

INT. UNICORN/BELLOW DECKS - NIGHT

SIR FRANCIS pulls a LEVER disguised as BOOK that reveals a HIDDEN COMPARTMENT on the SHIP. RED RACKHAM makes his way down a RAMP into the COMPARTMENT. A MOUNTAIN OF TREASURE fills the COMPARTMENT.

HADDOCK (V.O.)
400 weight of gold, jewels, and treasure.

We are behind RACKHAM, who steps in the middle of it and lifts the mask off his face to get a better look, although we do not see his face. Slowly lowering the mask, he turns, gesturing with his sword top side.

RED RACKHAM
Kill his men!

SIR FRANCIS
No, Rackham, no!!!

EXT. UNICORN/ABOVE DECK - NIGHT

FLASHBACK: SIR FRANCIS' MEN being shoved off planks, falling overboard and being swarmed by SHARKS.
SIR FRANCIS
Rackham, you gave me your word!
Rackham! Rachkam!!

TRANSITION: CAPTAIN HADDOCK’S FACE is in each of the bubbles underwater. All of the bubbles come together to form one big bubble which pops us back into the present, as TINTIN holds HADDOCK.

INT. AFGHAR OUTPOST OFFICE - DAY

HADDOCK
Sir Francis knew he was doomed, that he’d be hung from the highest yardarm but they didn’t reckon on one thing. Sir Francis was a Haddock and a Haddock always has a trick up his sleeve.

HADDOCK moves around the table, looking at everyone, delusional, until he spots a QUILL in an INK WELL. He turns it over, looking at the POINT.

TRANSITION: Moving into the QUILL, the image dissolves into the QUILL on SIR FRANCIS’S HAT ...

EXT. THE UNICORN – NIGHT

ANGLE ON: SIR FRANCIS, is lashed to the main mast. Slumped on the deck around him are sleeping, drunken PIRATES...

He FLIPS off his HAT, catches it in his teeth, shakes it. A FEATHER in the band falls out, a sharp BLADE glinting on the end. He catches it and begins to CUT HIS BINDINGS.

INT. AFGHAR OUTPOST OFFICE – DAY

HADDOCK
And with that, he hurls himself forward!

TINTIN
On the pirates? Like that? Unarmed?

HADDOCK
No, no, on a bottle of rum rolling on the deck. And he opens it up and puts it to his lips, and ...

TINTIN puts his hands on the BOTTLE and takes it away from HADDOCK.
TINTIN
And then he stops. 'This is not time for drinking,' he says. I need all my wits about me. With that, he puts down the bottle and -

HADDOCK
(dismisively)
Yes, yes, he puts down the bottle and he seizes a cutlass!

HADDOCK picks up a SWORD and swings wildly!

INT. THE UNICORN/BELOW DECKS - NIGHT

SIR FRANCIS sneaks below decks, wielding his CUTLASS.

HADDOCK (O.S.)
And then he makes his way to the ship's magazine where they keep all the gunpowder and the shot!

He lays a trail of gunpowder up a flight of stairs and right from the gunpowder; on deck, RED RACKHAM'S SWORD comes into the foreground and SIR FRANCIS turns.

EXT. THE UNICORN DECK - NIGHT

RED RACKHAM
You dog... you'd blow us sky high!

SIR FRANCIS
Come on, then. Let's have you.

SIR FRANCIS and RED RACKHAM clash SWORDS in a FURIOUS DUEL.

SIR FRANCIS cuts a ROPE, and sends a BURNING LANTERN smashing onto the DECK... it instantly IGNITES the GUNPOWDER TRAIL!

RED RACKHAM
Not this time!

RED RACKHAM STAMPS the FIZZING FUSE out, but SIR FRANCIS fends him away with a FLURRY of SWORD BLOWS and kicks the LANTERN back into the trail of GUNPOWDER!

INT. THE UNICORN GUN DECK - NIGHT

ANGLE ON: As they continue the fight, RACKHAM heads down the stairs to the GUN DECK.
The Fuse Burns as Rackham Shoves a Drunken Pirate and Sweeps Away the Gunpowder with His Foot. Sir Francis Knocks Over a Lantern and Relights the Fuse!

The Fight continues as Sir Francis and Rackham moves to the stairs. The Fuse is continually swept away and more lanterns are dropped to the floor!

Angle on: Sir Francis gains the upper hand... Red Rackham becomes Desperate... with backward stab of his Cutlass, Sir Francis wounds Red Rackham! He Drops his Sword, clutches a mast to steady himself.

Sir Francis slashes at Red Rackham's Head, perfectly slicing the Silk Scarf... it flutters away, revealing Red Rackham's Face!

Close on: A long, Deep Scar runs from his right cheekbone to the corner of his lips, causing his mouth to twist in a slightly deformed manner... nevertheless, his face is Unmistakable!

He is the Splitting Image of Sakharine!

Int. Afgihar Outpost Office - Day

Tintin is sitting on the floor by the desk. Haddock points the Sword at him.

Haddock
You!

Close on: Haddock frozen in Shock! Standing, Staring at somebody.

Tintin
(puzzled)
Captain? What is it?

The Camera Pushes In on Haddock's Ashen Face...

Haddock
How could I be so blind?

Tintin gets up.

Tintin
(concerned)
What are you talking about?
HADDOK
This isn’t just about the scrolls
or the treasure that went down with
the ship. It’s me! It’s me he’s
after!

EXT. THE UNICORN DECK - NIGHT
The FUSE continues to BURN towards BARRELS OF GUNPOWDER.

RED RACKHAM
(quiet hate)
You’ll suffer a curse upon you and
your name, Haddock.

INT. AFGHAR OUTPOST OFFICE - DAY
HADDOK paces the room.

HADDOK
He wants vengeance.

EXT. THE UNICORN DECK - NIGHT
SIR FRANCIS turns and walks to the PORTHOLE and RED RACKHAM
whips his SWORD into the hull.

RED RACKHAM
(yelling)
Come back and face me!

INT. AFGHAR OUTPOST OFFICE - DAY
ANGLE ON: HADDOK backs across the ROOM, a look of alarm on
his face!

HADDOK
Hurry, Tintin!!!

HADDOK leaps towards TINTIN, grabbing his arm!

HADDOK (CONT’D)
(urgent)
We’re out of time!

TINTIN
(alarmed)
Captain...!
ANGLE ON: HADDOCK races for the WINDOW, dragging TINTIN with him!

EXT. THE UNICORN - NIGHT

SIR FRANCIS jumps out of the CANNON HOLE into the water!

EXT. AFGHAR OUTPOST COURTYARD - DAY

ANGLE ON: HADDOCK and TINTIN come flying out of the SECOND FLOOR WINDOW in a shower of BROKEN GLASS. They LAND on a wooden cart filled with HAY near the STABLES.

INT. THE UNICORN - LOWER DECK - NIGHT

The FUSE arrives at the GUNPOWDER BARREL!

EXT. THE UNICORN/UNDERWATER - NIGHT

ANGLE ON: Looking up through the water as SIR FRANCIS lands in the FOREGROUND. At that moment, the dark hulk of the UNICORN erupts into FLAMING FRAGMENTS!

WIDE ON: The UNICORN and all on board are blasted to pieces... DEBRIS flies in all directions.

ANGLE ON: SIR FRANCIS surfaces amongst the BURNING FRAGMENTS of his SHIP. He is almost hit by the FALLING MAST, then climbs onto it. He holds out his HAT to protect himself as TREASURE RAINS DOWN, filling it to the brim.

The UNICORN quickly takes on water. SIR FRANCIS swims away as RACKHAM, trapped in the sinking ship, curses HADDOCK'S NAME.

   RED RACKHAM
   I curse you - I curse your name and
   all who come after! We will meet
   again Haddock! In another time!!
   In another life!!

SIR FRANCIS sits on the MAST as another explosion rocks the UNICORN. Treasure flies into the air and rains down onto SIR FRANCIS, some landing in his HAT. The SHIP sinks below the waves.

EXT. AFGHAR OUTPOST COURTYARD - DAY

TRANSITION: HADDOCK and TINTIN surface from the HAY PILE.
HADDOCK
(softly)
It’s not over. It was never over!

TINTIN
I don’t understand. Who’s after your blood!

HADDOCK
Sakharine!

TINTIN
(shocked)
Sakharine. Why?

HADDOCK is staring into the distance.

HADDOCK
He’s Red Rackham’s descendant. He means to finish it!

TINTIN digests this information.

TINTIN
That’s why he did it.

HADDOCK
Did what?

TINTIN
Sank his own ship! Sir Francis sent that treasure to the bottom of the sea. He would be damned before he let Red Rackham have it.

HADDOCK
And he was.

TINTIN
But he couldn’t let it lie.

HADDOCK
No!

TINTIN
He left a clue! Three clues wrapped in a riddle, concealing a secret. But only a true Haddock will be able to solve it.

HADDOCK
What secret?
TINTIN
The location to one of the greatest
sunken treasures in all history.

HADDOCK
(realizing)
The wreck of the Unicorn. He means
to steal it. The third scroll!
Billions of blue-blistering
barnacles, I swear, as the last of
the Haddocks, I'll find that
treasure before him!

TINTIN
To Bagghar.

HADDOCK spits on his hand.

HADDOCK
To Bagghar!

They shake on it.

TRANSITION: The HANDS turn into SAND DUNES...

EXT. WELLS OF KEFHEIR - DAY

ANGLE ON: TINTIN, SNOWY and HADDOCK are RIDING CAMELS. As the
crest a SAND DUNE, BAGGHAR is revealed below them. The
KARABOUDJAN is heading into PORT. TINTIN points to the
KARABOUDJAN.

TINTIN
He’s here.

EXT. BAGGHAR STREETS AND ALLEYS - DAY

ANGLES ON: Rushing through the narrow streets of BAGGHAR,
TINTIN, SNOWY and HADDOCK look for SAKHARINE and his men.

The CROWDED STREETS are full of ARABS and BERBERS, many with
HOODS and SCARFS covering their Faces.

TWO MYSTERIOUS HOODED FIGURES come out and follow them.

EXT. BAGGHAR SQUARE - DAY

ANGLE ON: HADDOCK and TINTIN walking through a crowded
MARKETPLACE.
HADDOCK
It's no good. They could be anywhere!

CLOSE ON: TINTIN whispers to HADDOCK.

TINTIN
(whisper)
Captain – don’t look now, but we’re being followed.

CLOSE ON: HADDOCK casually glances behind him.

HADDOCK
(softly)
Ah, so we are.

ANGLE ON: TINTIN and HADDOCK head toward the PALACE. The same two MYSTERIOUS ROBED FIGURES come out of the shadows and follow them into a narrow alley.

EXT. BAGGAR MARKET – DAY

ANGLE ON: Following the TWO HOODED FIGURES… TINTIN and HADDOCK’S FEET suddenly stick out from a DOORWAY, tripping them up!

One sprawls onto the GROUND, causing the next to topple over as well!

TINTIN steps forward, FISTS CLENCHED!

TINTIN
What do you want? Why are you following us?

HADDOCK
Who are you working for?

HADDOCK jumps on them, grabbing them and smashing them into the ground.

ANGLE ON: The THOM(P)SONS look up in confusion! Their hoods fall away to reveal the BOWLER HATS on their heads!

TINTIN steps in and pulls HADDOCK off them.

TINTIN
Captain, stop! Stop!
Thompson! And …Thomson!

TINTIN helps the THOM(P)SONS stagger to their feet.
THOMSON
Not so loud ...

THOMSON
We’re in disguise.

TINTIN
So I see – you got the message I sent from the ship?

THOMSON
Yes, well, bit of a long story, that.

THOMSON
The upshot is – we caught the thief, retrieved your wallet, and then hopped on the next plane to Bagghar.

THOMSON
Yes, that pocket picker has picked his last pocket.

With a flourish, THOMSON produces TINTIN’S WALLET.

THOMSON (CONT’D)
Don’t worry, he didn’t take any money.

TINTIN
(tense)
It’s not the money I’m worried about.

CLOSE ON: TINTIN walks and turns away. He hurriedly fishes into his WALLET and produces the neatly folded SCROLL!

TINTIN (CONT’D)
The odds are even! Now to find the next two scrolls.

EXT. BAGGHAR MARKET – CONTINUOUS

TINTIN’s deep in THOUGHT ... He puts his WALLET and the SCROLL away.

ANGLE ON: TINTIN slowly lifts his gaze to the OPERA BANNER which hangs across the square.

TINTIN
(quiet realization)
The Milanese Nightingale.
(MORE)
TINTIN (CONT’D)
(in a soft voice)
That’s his secret weapon?!

ANGLE ON: Tilting down from BIANCA CASTAFIORE’S PORTRAIT to the slogan written below: The world-famous “Milanese Nightingale”! TINTIN, the THOM(SONS) and Haddock stare at the banner.

HADDOCK
Ahh! What a dish.

INT. SALAAD PALACE GREAT HALL - DAY

ANGLE ON: PAPARAZZI snapping ... REPORTERS shouting over each other ... BAGGHAR residents yelling for autographs.

CLOSE ON: BIANCA CASTAFIORE is all smiles and poses. She’s the very model of bewitched OPERA STAR.

BIANCA CASTAFIORE titters, delightedly. Her laugh rises to a soprano trill.

ANGLE ON: BEN SALAAD stands before her. He BOWS and KISSES her hand.

BEN SALAAD
Enchanted, Signora. Bienvenuto! Welcome! We are blessed with your presence.

CASTAFIORE
Yes, indeed Signore Salad.
(waving to the crowd)
What charming peasants!
(turning back to SALAAD)
May I introduce my escort, Monsieur Shuggair Addeitiff!

ANGLE ON: From behind BIANCA CASTAFIORE steps SAKHARINE!!! He is dressed in a tuxedo. BIANCA theatrically rests her hand on his arm.

CASTAFIORE (CONT’D)
He’s been very... passionate in his support of this concert. It’s my first visit to the third world.

SAKHARINE
Please forgive me, I must escort madame to her dressing room. Excuse us!
SAKHARINE guides BIANCA CASTAFIORE away from BEN SALAAD. BEN SALAAD and his SECRETARY applaud as she goes.

BEN SALAAD

Bravo!

SECRETARY

Bravo!

BEN SALAAD

Bravo!

SECRETARY

Bravo!

BEN SALAAD

Bravo!

SAKHARINE

After you.

His eyes flicking to the UNICORN MODEL as he goes past it.

ANGLE ON: NEV-R-BREAK BULLET PROOF GLASS logo on the display containing the THIRD MODEL UNICORN.

EXT. SALAAD PALACE - DAY

As TINTIN and HADDOCK stand at the entrance of the palace, GUESTS arrive for the opera. PALACE GUARDS watch TINTIN; he makes a decision. He takes out his WALLET, whispers.

TINTIN

Here, I want you to look after this. What are you doing?

TINTIN hands the SECOND SCROLL to a surprised HADDOCK.

HADDOCK

Me?

TINTIN

Yes.

HADDOCK

Are, you sure?

TINTIN

If I’m caught, I don’t want them to find this on me. Just keep it hidden.

HADDOCK gets down on one knee.
HADDOCK
I will guard this with my life!

TINTIN
Get up, get up!

The camera cranes up to reveal the whole of BEN SALAAD’S PALACE.

INT. SALAAD PALACE THEATER - DAY

OPERA-GOERS take their seats as the ORCHESTRA plays. BEN SALAAD sits front and center.

A stir of excitement... BEN SALAAD sits forward eagerly!

ANGLE ON: CASTAFIORE enters with great fanfare. HADDOCK nudges TINTIN, excited.

HADDOCK
It’s her!

Through his opera glasses, TINTIN notices the NEV-R BREAK LOGO on the UNICORN DISPLAY CASE.

She steps to the front of the stage and opens her mouth ... LAUNCHING with great vigor into a well-known aria.

CLOSE ON: HADDOCK as a look of horror crosses his face.

HADDOCK (CONT’D)
Blistering barnacles, what’s that noise! My ears – they’re bleeding!

TINTIN
No, they’re not!

HADDOCK hits his head against the chair. SNOWY begins to whine.

TINTIN (CONT’D)
Shut up, Snowy!

CLOSE ON: CASTAFIORE’s hitting high notes, her bosom heaving.

HADDOCK
Oh, Columbus! It’s every man for himself!

HADDOCK suddenly stands pushing past annoyed THEATRE PATRONS.
HADDOCK (CONT'D)
Make way, make way! Medical emergency!

HADDOCK staggers for the exit, hands blocking his ears!

HADDOCK reaches the table with the drinks, he grabs the tablecloth and yanks it off. The bottles and glasses don't move. HADDOCK puts the tablecloth around his head, like Lawrence of Arabia.

INT. SALAAD PALACE THEATER LOBBY - DAY

ANGLE ON: HADDOCK hurries into the calm of the lobby. CASTAFIORE's somewhat muted voice can still be heard.

ANGLE ON: HADDOCK takes out a BOTTLE from his jacket.

HADDOCK
Ah ha!

The SECOND SCROLL flutters out ...

CLOSE ON: HADDOCK's hand trying not to lose it. HADDOCK stares at the SCROLL, folding it tightly.

HADDOCK (CONT'D)
That was close!

He decides to put the alcohol bottle down. He starts to walk away...

A HAND GRABS THE BOTTLE. As HADDOCK walks forward, ALLAN steps in front of him!

TOM
(chilling)
Hello, Captain.

HADDOCK looks at him, shocked!

HADDOCK
You!

WHACK! ALLAN brings the BOTTLE of ALCOHOL crashing down on HADDOCK'S HEAD!

INT. SALAAD PALACE THEATER - DAY

The GUARD behind TINTIN moves closer.
ANGLE ON: TINTIN sees movement in the upper balcony... a FIGURE sits back in his SEAT, hidden from view.

CASTAFIORE's reflection appears on his glasses. The FALCON lands on his ARM.

ANGLE ON: TINTIN borrows a pair of OPERA GLASSES lying on a SEAT nearby. He quickly scans for the half-hidden figure in the balcony.

TINTIN POV: A brief glimpse of the FIGURE - it is the SILHOUETTE of SAKHARINE!

CLOSE ON: CASTAFIORE'S FACE straining as her NOTES lift HIGHER and HIGHER!

INT. SALAAD PALACE THEATER - CONTINUOUS

CLOSE ON: TINTIN, as dawning realization crosses his face!

TINTIN

Oh, no.

TINTIN stands and turns to the BALCONY.

TINTIN (CONT'D) Sakharine!

CLOSE ON: CASTAFIORE continues SINGING to EAR SPLITTING NOTES, eyes squeezed TIGHT!

CRASH! GLASSES and CHAMPAGNE SHATTER! BEN SALAAD's GLASSES BREAK!

SAKHARINE leans into the light and reveals his SMILE.

BIANCA'S VOICE SOARS HIGHER!

ANGLE ON: The UNICORN MODEL. Its GLASS CASE begins breaking, long SPIDERY CRACKS racing across the SURFACE, as if under HUGE PRESSURE.

ANGLE ON: TINTIN suddenly stands -

SMASH!! A GLASS CHANDELIER shatters into TINY PIECES!

CASTAFIORE, still singing, turns towards the BALCONY - raising her arm in a DRAMATIC GESTURE.

CLOSE ON: CASTAFIORE summons a deep breath, OPENS HER MOUTH and hits B FLAT over HIGH C!
The GLASS UNICORN CASE SHATTERS with EXPLOSIVE FORCE! Broken GLASS flies in all directions.

ANGLE ON: BEN SALAAD reacts to the SHATTERING CASE!

SAKHARINE calmly launches his FALCON.

TINTIN (CONT'D)
(yelling)
The falcon! Snowy, after it!

At that moment HADDOCK bursts into the THEATRE, waving his arms around madly!

HADDOCK
(yelling)
Tintin!

SAKHARINE
(from the balcony)
Those two! They’re here to steal your ship!

BEN SALAAD leaps to his feet, waving his arms at HADDOCK, screaming ORDERS!

TINTIN
No, no, no, no, no, we’re not!

BEN SALAAD
Arrest him! The ugly one!

TINTIN
No wait!

HADDOCK
(pointing to himself)
Me?

BEN SALAAD
Yes! Thief! Arrest him!

BEN SALAAD’S SOLDIERS race towards HADDOCK.

CASTAFIORE looks around at the sudden mayhem confused by all the PANIC!

HADDOCK is immediately pounced on by SEVERAL PALACE GUARDS... HADDOCK ROARS, FISTS FLYING, sending GUARDS toppling in all directions.

BEN SALAAD (CONT’D)
C’est un voleur!
TINTIN hurries towards HADDOCK, keeping his EYES on SAKHARINE in the BALCONY ...

The FALCON soars down over the HEADS of the THEATER-GOERS, flying towards the shattered UNICORN CASE.

ANGLE ON: the FALCON swoops low, landing on the UNICORN MODEL... he picks it up in his talons and flies into the air.

The UNICORN falls.

The UNICORN MODEL topples onto the FLOOR. The MAST BREAKS. WE CAN SEE THE METAL SCROLL CYLINDER

The FALCON swoops down to pick it up.

It’s a race between SNOWY AND THE FALCON.

The FALCON snatches up the METAL CYLINDER in his BEAK, and instantly TAKES TO THE AIR, just avoiding the snapping JAWS of SNOWY who has raced towards him!

TINTIN watches helplessly as the FALCON flies back to SAKHARINE, who catches him, and immediately DISAPPEARS. BEN SALAAD SCREAMS order in French.

TINTIN manages to fight his way through to HADDOCK.

MORE PALACE GUARDS close in on TINTIN and HADDOCK! BEN SALAAD is SHOUTING ANGRY ORDERS, completely missing SAKHARINE and the FALCON.

TINTIN and HADDOCK manage to escape.

INT. SALAAD PALACE CORRIDORS - DAY

ANGLE ON: TINTIN and HADDOCK race out of the THEATER!

TINTIN
Captain, Sakharine’s got the scroll!

HADDOCK
It’s worse than that!

TINTIN
(horrified)
What do you mean?

HADDOCK
They took your scroll Tintin - it’s gone!
TINTIN skids to a HALT... approaching SHOUTS...

TINTIN
How?! What happened?

HADDOCK
It was Allan, he, he knobbled me in
the, in the garden. There was a
bottle of alcohol...

TINTIN cuts him off, disappointment written all over his
face.

TINTIN
There always is.

HADDOCK
No, no. No, not like that -

HADDOCK puts his hands on TINTIN’s shoulders.

TINTIN
I can smell it on you.

TINTIN pushes HADDOCK’s hands off, and heads out.

EXT. BELOW DAM, BAGGHAR STREETS - DAY

ANGLE ON: SAKHARINE pulls out the THREE SCROLLS from his
JACKET POCKET - it is the first time we have seen all three
together. SAKHARINE’S FALCON sits on the corner of the
windshield of the JEEP!

SAKHARINE smiles smugly drops the THREE SCROLLS into the
LEATHER WALLET.

SAKHARINE
Hurry! Back to the boat!

EXT. SALAAD PALACE - DAY

TINTIN punches a GUARD, who falls to the GROUND.

EXT. SALAAD PALACE - DAY

ANGLE ON: HADDOCK desperately runs out of the palace

HADDOCK
Tintin!

HADDOCK joins TINTIN...
HADDOCK (CONT'D)
Where are you going?

TINTIN
I'm going after Sakharine!

HADDOCK
By yourself?

TINTIN
Yes. Come on, Snowy.

HADDOCK considers his options.

He turns back and grabs the GUARD'S WEAPON: a ROCKET LAUNCHER, from the ground.

A GUARD is starting to stand up, as HADDOCK swings the LAUNCHER over his shoulder and turns, he knocks out the GUARD back to the ground.

HADDOCK walks over to the motorcycle, TINTIN kicks in the engine. BEN SALAAD runs out of the palace.

BEN SALAAD
Get them, get them!

ANGLE ON: TINTIN rockets across the BRIDGE, riding a MOTORCYCLE, with HADDOCK and SNOWY in a SIDECAR.

EXT. BELOW DAM, BAGGHAR STREETS - DAY

TINTIN's reflection is in the rearview mirror of the JEEP. TOM looks back.

ANGLE ON: SAKHARINE glances behind him - his face sets in a HARD MASK when he sees TINTIN.

SAKHARINE
Lose them! Get him off our tail!

ANGLE ON: ALLAN begins firing on the MOTORCYCLE.

SNOWY hides in the SIDECAR from the gunfire.

HADDOCK swings the ROCKET LAUNCHER onto his SHOULDER ...

HADDOCK squeezes the TRIGGER... BOOM! The ROCKET LAUNCHER fires backward - straight into the DAM CONTROL STATION!

ANGLE ON: HADDOCK looks back, trying to SPOT where the ROCKET HIT... he can sees A CLOUD OF SMOKE rising.
TINTIN
Did you hit anything?

HADDOCK
Oh, dear.

HADDOCK throws down the ROCKET LAUNCHER.

The WALL of the DAM bursts with a THUNDEROUS BOOM!

ANGLE ON: TINTIN and HADDOCK desperately attempt to outrun the wall of mud in the motorcycle!

EXT. BAGGHAR STREETS, MUD SLIDE – DAY

ANGLE ON: SAKHARINE as he watches the DELUGE behind TINTIN and HADDOCK.

SAKHARINE
Faster, you idiot, faster!

TINTIN skillfully navigates the MOTORCYCLE, as TOM desperately steers the JEEP down flooded streets.

ANGLE ON: SAKHARINE looking behind them ...

SAKHARINE POV: a TORRENT of MUD is BEARING DOWN on them! TINTIN’S MOTORCYCLE is getting closer!

TINTIN and HADDOCK drive past on motorbike with sidecar ... SNOWY LEAPS into the JEEP and tries to grabs the SCROLLS. SAKHARINE tries to keep them from SNOWY, only to have the SCROLLS grabbed by TINTIN. SNOWY JUMPS BACK TO THE MOTORCYCLE.

SAKHARINE (CONT’D)
Devil!

TINTIN
I’ll have those, thank you!

HADDOCK
Come on, Snowy! Come on! Incoming falcon at 4 o’clock!

SAKHARINE’s FALCON flies after TINTIN and HADDOCK... he swoops down!

The MUDSLIDE slams into the city BUILDINGS, destroying everything in its path.
A TANK bursts through the WALL behind them and HADDOCK is banged on the head by the BARREL. HADDOCK’S COAT is snagged by the TANK CANNON and he is lifted from the SIDECAR.

HADDOCK (CONT’D)

Tintin, faster!

The scrolls slip from TINTIN’s hand – HADDOCK grabs two.

TINTIN

The scrolls!

HADDOCK

Got one! Two!

SNOWY grabs the SCROLL before it flutters away.

TINTIN

And three!

The MOTORCYCLE breaks in two, and TINTIN and SNOWY sail off in different directions!

TINTIN (CONT’D)

Snowy!

HADDOCK hangs from BARREL of TANK... the TANK careens and slides all over the road, smashing HADDOCK from one wall into another.

HADDOCK hangs precariously over the edge of a drop...

HADDOCK falls through lines of washing...

HADDOCK loses another SCROLL which flutters up into the air!

The SCROLL flutters in the air, HADDOCK tries to grab it.

HADDOCK

Oh, no - oh no! Not again! Come here, my beauty!

The FALCON swoops in and snatches the SCROLL... HADDOCK gives chase, cursing as he goes!

HADDOCK (CONT’D)

Ten thousand thundering typhoons! Come here, you pilfering parakeet!

TINTIN collects HADDOCK on the front of his MOTORBIKE.

TINTIN

Captain, the bird - grab it!
SNOWY rides atop the MUDSLIDE and manages to capture the FALCON, pinning him down with the SCROLL still in his BEAK! They RACE alongside TINTIN and HADDOCK.

TINTIN (CONT'D)
Nice work, Snowy - don’t let him go!

HADDOCK launches himself at the FALCON ... he manages to upset SNOWY and the BIRD - they fly through the air into a BUILDING, as SNOWY hangs on by his TEETH to the SCROLL the FALCON holds in his TALONS!

HADDOCK ends up inside the building ... he swirls around and around as the MUD RISES HIGHER ...

HADDOCK
Hang on, Snowy! Snowy, I’m coming!

HADDOCK grabs SNOWY. Winded, SNOWY lets go of the SCROLL.

The FALCON snatches the SCROLL ...

SAKHARINE arrives in the JEEP ...

SAKHARINE
There he is! There he is, stop!
Stop!!

He raises his arm to the bird.

SAKHARINE (CONT'D)
That’s right. That’s right, come to daddy! Come to daddy ...

TINTIN intercepts the FALCON!

TINTIN
Got you!

SAKHARINE
No, wait!

He grabs the bird and manages to get two of the SCROLLS before the FALCON escapes!

TINTIN
No!!

As SAKHARINE pursues TINTIN, HADDOCK bears down on SAKHARINE and his HENCHMEN.

SAKHARINE
Come on, quickly! Quickly!
HADDOCK
Geronimo!

HADDOCK lands on the JEEP!

HADDOCK (CONT'D)
You double-dealing, pilfering parasites!

SAKHARINE
Keep your eye on the boy!

HADDOCK thumps ALLAN, ALLAN tries to fight back.

TINTIN chases the FALCON through the collapsing BUILDING and nearly manages to capture it after it becomes entangled in a LOOM. The FALCON breaks free and the chase continues!

TINTIN
Excuse me! Pardon me! Sorry!

The MOTORCYCLE is smashed on a bridge, and TINTIN uses the HANDLEBARS to ride ELECTRICAL WIRES like a ZIPLINE. He runs along the WALLS of BUILDINGS, SMASHES into POLES and rides a LANTERN after the FALCON, the THREADS that still entangle the bird just beyond his grasp!

Just as the FALCON loses TINTIN, he jumps from a BALCONY and grabs the FALCON.

TINTIN (CONT'D)

Got you!

ALLAN
There he is!

TIME SLOWS as TINTIN slowly aligns the SCROLLS, still locked in the TALONS of the FALCON. The mysterious SYMBOLS slowly become NUMBERS.

TINTIN
The scrolls are lining up. These are hidden numbers.

SAKHARINE observes TINTIN from nearby.

TINTIN (CONT'D)

What does it say?

TINTIN's moment of discovery is interrupted by SAKHARINE.

SAKHARINE
I wouldn't do that if I were you!
TOM and ALLAN hold HADDOCK over the edge of a nearby BUILDING.

SAKHARINE (CONT’D)
Let the bird go. What do you value more, those scrolls or Haddock’s life?

HADDOCK
Agh! Don’t listen to him! You’ll never get away with this, you sour-faced sassenack!

SAKHARINE
I will kill him!

TINTIN refuses to release the FALCON.

HADDOCK
Don’t worry about me, Tintin, I’m fine!

SAKHARINE
Let the bird go now or this man dies!

ALLAN and TOM prepare to throw HADDOCK into the water.

TINTIN
No, wait!

HADDOCK
(to SAKHARINE)
You two-timing troglodyte! You simpering son of a po-face profiteer.

SAKHARINE
Perhaps we should put it to the test. Here’s mud in your eye!

ALLAN and TOM throw HADDOCK into the MUD!

HADDOCK
Fat head!

TINTIN releases the FALCON and dives in after him! The FALCON flies to SAKHARINE’S ARM.
EXT. BAGGHAR HARBOUR — DAY

WIDE ON: The TANK finishes dragging the HOTEL BAGGHAR to the harbor before falling into the water. THOMPSON and THOMSON emerge on the balcony.

THOMPSON
We're saved!

THOMSON
I love the beach.

THOMPSON
You said you wanted a holiday!

THOMSON
Quite.

The MANAGER of the HOTEL comes out and places a STARFISH on his SIGN to add a fourth star to the hotel's three.

ANGLE ON: The KARABOUDJAN STEAMS AWAY from the BAY. HADDOCK is watching it LEAVE.

HADDOCK
(furious outrage)
Nobody takes my ship!

ANGLE ON: HADDOCK turns to TINTIN for support, but finds TINTIN just sitting, looking defeated.

TINTIN
They've already taken it.

HADDOCK
Nobody takes my ship twice!

HADDOCK (CONT'D)
(energized)
We'll show them, eh, won't we, Tintin? Alright then -- what's the plan?

TINTIN
There is no plan.

HADDOCK
Of course there's a plan -- you always gotta have a plan.

TINTIN
Not this time.
EXT. BAGGHAR HARBOUR – CONTINUOUS

HADDOCK looks at TINTIN expectantly.

TINTIN
Sakharine has the scrolls. They’ll lead him to the treasure... it could be anywhere in the world. We’ll never see him again.

TINTIN shakes his head.

TINTIN (CONT’D)
It’s over.

HADDOCK
I thought you were an optimist!

TINTIN
Well, you were wrong, weren’t you? I’m a realist.

HADDOCK
That’s just another name for a quitter.

TINTIN
You can call me what you like. Don’t you get it? We failed.

HADDOCK
Failed? There are plenty of others willing to call you a failure, a fool, a loser, a hopeless souse! But don’t you ever say it of yourself!

HADDOCK pokes TINTIN in the chest and he falls back into his chair. HADDOCK looks at TINTIN a beat.

HADDOCK (CONT’D)
You send out the wrong signal, that is what people pick up. Do you understand? You care about something, you fight for it. You hit a wall, you push through it. There’s something you need to know about failure, Tintin...

HADDOCK turns and walks away from TINTIN. TINTIN looks up at HADDOCK. HADDOCK turns and looks at the KARABGOUJAN leaving.

HADDOCK (CONT’D)
You can never let it defeat you.
TINTIN plays back what he has just heard. He looks up. And suddenly we know we've reached a TURNING POINT.

TINTIN
What did you just say?

HADDOCK
You hit a wall, you push through it?

TINTIN
No, no, no, you said something about sending out a signal!

TINTIN slaps one hand with the other.

TINTIN (CONT'D)
(explaining)
of course! Captain, I sent a radio message from the Karaboudjan. I know what radio frequency they're transmitting on.

HADDOCK
Well, how does that help us?

TINTIN
All we have to do is send that information to Interpol. They can track the signals and figure out which way they're headed.

The THOM(P)SONS appear in the distance, walking along the beach towards them.

HADDOCK
(delighted)
Here comes Interpol now.

THOMPSONS
Tintin!

TINTIN
Any port they enter, we'll know at once.

HADDOCK'S eyes sweep round the harbour and settle on the SEAPLANE that is moored there.

HADDOCK
We can get there first!
EXT. DOCKS - NIGHT

WIDE ON: A BUSY EUROPEAN DOCKLAND. CRANES stand like skeletal DINOSAURS, RAILWAY TRACKS run up the length of WHARFS, where many SHIPS are MOORED.

ANGLE ON: The KARABOUDJAN pulls into DOCK.

SAKHARINE comes STRIDING down the GANGWAY, TOM and ALLAN behind him.

STANDING next to a stately BENTLEY CAR, waiting for them, is NESTOR in a CHAUFFEUR'S UNIFORM.

TOM
What are we doing here, boss? I don’t get it. We’re right back where we started.

SAKHARINE
You’re to speak of this to no one. Keep your mouths shut.

ALLAN
Don’t worry. As long as we get our share.

SAKHARINE
Oh, you’ll get your share. Just guard the ship.

SAKHARINE brandishes the three SCROLLS.

TOM
But where are you going? (beat) Where’s the filthy moulah?

SAKHARINE exchanges a glance with ALLAN. He understands ALLAN’S worry.

SAKHARINE walks toward his waiting CAR, where NESTOR is standing.

NESTOR
Good evening, sir. I trust you had a successful trip abroad?

SAKHARINE
(rudely)
Do I pay you to talk to me?
NESTOR
(muttering under his breath)
You don’t pay me at all.

ANGLE ON: SAKHARINE slides into the CAR.

SUDDENLY, CHAINS lift on either side of the CAR!

Before SAKHARINE can react, the car starts rising into the air!

WIDE ON: The CAR is being lifted by one of the huge WHARF CRANES!

SAKHARINE
What the blazes? Nestor, Nestor!

ALLAN and TOM come out of the SHIP with their GUNS drawn. They look up and see the CAR moving TOWARD THE CRANE!

SAKHARINE (CONT’D)
TOM, ALLAN, YOU BLATHERING IDIOTS, DON’T JUST STAND THERE, DO SOMETHING!

ALLAN and TOM just stand and watch.

ANGLE ON: HADDOCK in the CAB of the CRANE, pulling LEVERS!

HADDOCK drives the CRANE forward and SWING THE CAR to the top of the ROOF of a BUILDING, where TINTIN stands with the THOM(PS)ON TWINS.

THOMPSON
Caught him like a rat in a trap!

TINTIN
Congratulations, gentlemen. He’s all yours.

THOMSON
Yes! We also have an arrest warrant issued by both Interpol and the FBI.

THOMPSON
Your friend who got shot...

TINTIN
Barnaby!? 
THOMPSON
One of their agents. Hot on
Sakharine’s trail from the start.

TINTIN
It still doesn’t make any sense. He
has the key to the treasure of the
Unicorn, which is sitting somewhere
on the ocean floor. Why would he
come back home?

ANGLE ON: The CAR swings over and lands in front of the
waiting group; they approach the CAR.

ANGLE ON: HADDOCK laughs from his CRANE as they approach.

THOMPSON steps forward and pulls open the back door... the
back is EMPTY!

THOMPSON
Right.

THOMPSON (CONT’D)   THOMPSON
Sakharine?   Sakharine?

SILENCE.

SAKHARINE sits up in the driver seat.

SAKHARINE
That’s Mr. Sakharine to you!

SAKHARINE pulls a GUN and keeps them at gunpoint; the others
slowly back away.

SAKHARINE (CONT’D)
Hold it!

ANGLE ON: HADDOCK sees ALLAN’S REFLECTION in the broken
windshield of the crane.

ALLAN enters with a GUN in HAND; HADDOCK quickly turns the
CRANE, throwing ALLAN off balance. The GUN goes off, the
BULLET shattering a WINDOW. HADDOCK tries to WRESTLE IT FROM
HIS GRIP.

The CRANE ARM swings wildly, and TINTIN and the THOM(P)SONS
leap for their lives as SAKHARINE’S CAR swings across the
ROOF, slams into a WALL and is lifted INTO THE AIR.

SAKHARINE (CONT’D)
What’s going...?
HADDOCK and ALLAN in the CRANE CAB. ALLAN pushes HADDOCK out the SIDE DOOR, and he hangs precariously from a RAILING. ALLAN runs to the controls and raises the CRANE, lifting SAKHARINE and the CAR into the air.

SAKHARINE (CONT’D)
Allan! Allan! Get me down, get me down, man!

ANGLE ON: SAKHARINE in the CAR as it is SWUNG AWAY from the BUILDING on the PALLET.

SAKHARINE (CONT’D)
Not that way! Not that way, you fool, the other way!

HADDOCK sneaks in behind ALLAN, throws him from the ROOM, and ALLAN lands in the BED of a PASSING TRUCK. He takes a seat at the CRANE CONTROLS.

SAKHARINE jumps out of the CAR and into the cab of SECOND CRANE.

ANGLE ON: SAKHARINE takes a seat in the SECOND CRANE. He struggles with the CONTROLS.

EXT. ESTABLISH POSITION OF CRANES

SAKHARINE and HADDOCK jump into action, and the CRANES approach each other and COLLIDE!

HADDOCK and SAKHARINE duel, as the MASSIVE METAL ARMS of the CRANES violently SLAM into each other. TINTIN and the THOM(P)SONS dive to safety as SAKHARINE’S CRANE ARM swings just over their heads. SAKHARINE then uses the arm to throw a PALETTE of CEMENT BAGS into HADDOCK’S CAB.

EXT. COLLISION / CRANES DUELING

HADDOCK fights to clear the CAB of the DUST and DEBRIS; the ARM of SAKHARINE’S CRANE crashes into the front window of his CAB.

ANGLE ON: A POLICE CAR is split in two by a CRANE.

HADDOCK slams his CRANE ARM onto the SAKHARINE’S CABIN, ripping away the ROOF!

SAKHARINE
Close, but no cigar!
SAKHARINE knocks out the SUPPORTS of HADDOCK’S CRANE with a PALETTE of BOXES. HADDOCK hits his head on the CABIN ROOF. BOXES and CRATES rain down on TINTIN, SNOWY and the TWINS. TOM runs at them with a GUN, but is trapped as several TIRES land on him. A group of THUGS rush to TOM’S aid, but SNOWY opens a CRATE of CANS that trip them up!

HADDOCK charges with his CRANE; SAKHARINE and HADDOCK are face to face.

HADDOCK
(deadly)
Red Rackham!

SAKHARINE
That’s right, my ancestor. Just as Sir Francis was yours.

HADDOCK
(grim)
Unfinished business.

SAKHARINE
I’m glad you know the truth, Haddock. Until you could remember, killing you wouldn’t have been this much fun!

SAKHARINE’S CRANE slides backward, the ARM SWINGS WILDLY and knocks HADDOCK’S CRANE over!

ANGLE ON: TINTIN watches as HADDOCK’S CRANE falls.

HADDOCK’S CRANE lands on the DECK of the KARABOUDJAN; he tumbles out of the cabin with other debris from the CRANE.

SAKHARINE walks down the ARM of the CRANE toward HADDOCK.

HADDOCK
Who gave you permission to board my ship?!

SAKHARINE
I don’t need it.

SAKHARINE pulls a SWORD from his CANE.

SAKHARINE (CONT’D)
I’ve never needed it.

As HADDOCK stands, he grabs a METAL LEVER off the GROUND.
ANGLE ON: HADDOCK and SAKHARINE duel, just like their ANCESTORS did... and just as RED RACKHAM did, SAKHARINE fights DIRTY.

CLANG! The METAL of the SWORD meets the STEEL of the LEVER.

SAKHARINE kicks HADDOCK to the ground. As HADDOCK tries to get up, SAKHARINE grabs a FISHNET and throws it at HADDOCK; it wraps around his neck. SAKHARINE pulls HADDOCK to him and then spins him around. SAKHARINE lets go on the final turn, and HADDOCK slams against CRATES filled with WHISKEY BOTTLES.

SAKHARINE walks away from HADDOCK.

As HADDOCK starts to get up slowly, a BOTTLE rolls onto his HAND. HADDOCK looks up at SAKHARINE.

A BOTTLE slams into SAKHARINE’S BACK. Suddenly, SAKHARINE is bombarded with BOTTLES - he tries to FEND THEM OFF but THERE ARE TOO MANY!

HADDOCK has his arms filled with bottles, throwing them at SAKHARINE with all his might as he crosses the DECK.

As SAKHARINE ducks for cover, he falls over the edge onto a LOWER PLATFORM.

HADDOCK slowly walks up with one BOTTLE left in his hand.

SAKHARINE comes up with the SCROLLS in one hand and a LIGHTER in the other.

**SAKHARINE (CONT’D)**

The legend says only a Haddock can discover the secret of the Unicorn - but it took a Rackham to get the job done! So you’ve lost again, Haddock. That’s right, why don’t you have a drink? That’s all you’ve got left, isn’t it? Everything that was rightfully yours is now mine, including this ship!

SUDDENLY, TINTIN swings in and retrieves the scrolls from SAKHARINE!

**HADDOCK**

Thundering typhoons. Nobody takes my ship.

HADDOCK punches SAKHARINE in the FACE, sending off the ship’s railing! HADDOCK kicks the last BOTTLE of WHISKEY after him. It hits SAKHARINE on the head.
TINTIN looks up and locks eyes with HADDOCK, he sees a new man.

EXT. POLICE LONGBOAT - NIGHT

THE THOM(PS)ON TWINS pull SAKHARINE out of the water, and throw him down on the DECK of the POLICE LONGBOAT.

THOMSON
We have you now, you devil. You are under arrest!

THOMPSON
To be precise... you are under arrest.

SAKHARINE puts his hands up in defeat.

EXT. KARABOUDJAN DECK - DAWN

TINTIN holds the SCROLLS up, allowing the SUN to SHINE through them.

TINTIN
Do you see?

CLOSE ON: A row of NUMBERS and LETTERS along the bottom of the SCROLLS.

HADDOCK
Blistering barnacles! They're coordinates!

TINTIN
It took all three scrolls to form the numbers.

HADDOCK
Latitude and longitude ... that is it! That's the location of the treasure!

TINTIN reaches out his hand, but HADDOCK grab him and they do a celebratory dance. HADDOCK laughs.

TINTIN
We did it!
EXT. MARLINSPIKE COUNTRYSIDE - DAY

CLOSE ON: The WIND rushes through SNOWY's fur, and then TINTIN'S COIF. HADDOCK raises a SEXTANT to his eye, checking location against the position of the sun. Puffy clouds tower above, and we assume he's at sea.

HADDOCK
Almost there, Mister Tintin. A nudge to starboard should do it.

CLOSE ON: TINTIN... low angle, looking up towards the SKY, WIND blasting his HAIR.

TINTIN
Are you sure we're on course?

HADDOCK
Aye, trust me, laddie - I know these parts like the back of my hand!

WIDE ON: HADDOCK is standing on the passenger seat of a car, TINTIN behind the wheel.

HADDOCK (CONT'D)
Starboard! Quickly! Quickly!

TINTIN
Aye, Captain - starboard it is...

They go off the road and drive through hedges.

EXT. MARLINSPIKE FRONT DOOR - DAY

They come through the clearing and arrive at the front steps of MARLINSPIKE HALL.

HADDOCK
FULL STOP!

ANGLE ON: TINTIN looking up at the exterior of the large mansion.

HADDOCK (CONT'D)
Marlinspike Hall!

TINTIN
Those coordinates lead here. This is where Sir Francis hid it? (puzzled)
I thought the treasure went down with the ship...
ANGLE ON: NESTOR opens the front door and welcomes HADDOCK and TINTIN.

NESTOR
Master Haddock, Mister Tintin, I’ve been expecting you.

INT. MARLINSPIKE HALLWAY - DAY

ANGLE ON: HADDOCK steps inside the GRAND HALL.

NESTOR
Welcome to Marlinspike Hall.

HADDOCK
Would you look at this place! I don’t think it’s changed at all since I was a wee boy.

NESTOR
And may I say, Sir, how much I am looking forward to having a Haddock back in charge of the estate.

HADDOCK
You’ll be waiting a long time, Nestor.

(wistful)
There’s no way I could afford to live here.

TINTIN
Well, Captain, you know the house. Where do we start?

HADDOCK thinks a moment ...

HADDOCK
Is the cellar still here?

INT. MARLINSPIKE HALL CELLAR - DAY

ANGLE ON: NESTOR leads HADDOCK and TINTIN down the STAIRS into a DIM VAULTED CELLAR... HADDOCK looks around in CONFUSION.

HADDOCK
No, no, no, no, no, no, this isn’t it. I meant the other cellar.
NESTOR
I'm sorry, sir - there is no other cellar.

HADDOCK
It was bigger than this...

ANGLE ON: SNOWY runs away and suddenly DISAPPEARS!

TINTIN
Snowy! Snowy, where are you?

TINTIN moves over to the other side of the room, there is a wall with furniture all stacked up. The GUARD DOG is looking around trying to get to the other side.

TINTIN looks around and sees an opening.

TINTIN (CONT'D)
Captain, help me.

HADDOCK AND TINTIN start to remove the furniture.

ANGLE ON: TINTIN finds a small hole in the brick wall.

TINTIN AND HADDOCK LOOK AT EACH OTHER.

SNOWY is on the other side.

TINTIN (CONT'D)
Snowy. Just like you said, Captain. You hit a wall...

HADDOCK
... you push through it.

INT. SECRET CELLAR, MARLINSPIKE - DAY

ANGLE ON: BOOM! TINTIN and HADDOCK using an OLD LUMP OF WOOD as a BATTERING RAM! They SMASH it against the BRICKS, PUNCHING a larger HOLE in the BRICK WALL.

ANGLE ON: TINTIN climbs through the wall into a LONG VAULTED ROOM, lit with filtered LIGHT beaming down from DUSTY SKYLIGHTS ... the ROOM is FULL of ANTIQUES, old SUITS of ARMOR, PAINTINGS, STATUES.

HADDOCK
My Grandfather must've walled it up before he lost the house.

TINTIN and HADDOCK hurry along the ROWS of ANTIQUES ... TINTIN looks to the STATUE of a BEARDED MAN holding a CROSS.
TINTIN
And then shines forth, the Eagle’s Cross...

HADDOCK
I can see the cross but where’s the eagle?

TINTIN
St. John the Evangelist, who was always depicted with an eagle, and he’s called the Eagle of Patmos. He is the eagle.
(at the statue)
But what is he trying to tell us, Captain? I’m at a loss.

CLOSE ON: A CARVED, STONE GLOBE. HADDOCK leans close to study it.

The GLOBE has detailed islands and coastlands in raised relief. HADDOCK traces an ARCHIPELAGO of TINY ISLANDS.

HADDOCK
That island, the one in the middle, that doesn’t exist.

TINTIN
How do you know?

HADDOCK
Because I’ve sailed those waters countless times. I’ve been there. It’s a mistake.

CLOSE ON: TINTIN; an idea is forming in his mind.

TINTIN
What if it isn’t... ?

HADDOCK looks at TINTIN, intrigued...

TINTIN (CONT’D)
Sir Francis wanted his inheritance to go to a man who was worthy of it... a man like himself, who knows the seas like the back of his hand. A man who could look at a globe and tell if one tiny island was out of place.

HADDOCK takes TINTIN’s meaning. He leans forward and slowly presses the TINY ISLAND that shouldn’t be there...
CLICK!! The top of the GLOBE pops open, like a lid!

TINTIN and HADDOCK lean forward, peering into the GLOBE.

HADDOCK
(quiet awe)
Blistering treasure! It's Red Rackham's barnacles!

TINTIN dips his hand in and brings out a HANDFUL of TREASURE.

HADDOCK (CONT'D)
What's this?

HADDOCK lifts out the lining containing the rest of the TREASURE and chuckles. He recognizes that it is SIR FRANCIS'S HAT. He empties the contents of the HAT into another container, and proudly puts it on.

TINTIN pulls a SECOND PIECE OF PARCHMENT from the GLOBE.

INT. SECRET CELLAR, MARLINSPIKE - DAY

NESTOR arrives, carrying a tray with a BOTTLE OF CHAMPAGNE and GLASSES.

HADDOCK
Ah hah! It's just a wee tipple - a toast to our good fortune!
(drinks)
Oh, that's better! It's odd really... you'd would of thought after all the fuss and bother, there would've been more...

HADDOCK drinks TINTIN's glass.

TINTIN
More of what?

HADDOCK
Red Rackham's treasure! I mean, by your own account he looted half of South America! I just thought... ahh, never mind. There's plenty to go around.
(sighs)
Oh, it's a funny old life, eh? Well, you've got your story for your newspaper. - all's well that ends well.

NESTOR leaves.
TINTIN
It's not ended.

ANGLE ON: TINTIN holds up a PARCHMENT MAP.

TINTIN (CONT'D)
Sir Francis left another clue at the bottom of the globe.

HADDOCK
A clue to what?

TINTIN
Four hundred weight of gold just lying at the bottom of the sea.

HADDOCK and TINTIN exchange a look.

TINTIN (CONT'D)
How's your thirst for adventure, Captain?

HADDOCK
Unquenchable, Tintin!

TINTIN and HADDOCK stare at the map together. The CAMERA ZOOMS in on SNOWY. He BARKS, almost like he is saying, "Oh no, not again... help!"

TITLE CARD: AND THE ADVENTURE CONTINUES ...

END TITLES