

Sets up location. ALWAYS IN CAPS.

EXT=exterior

INT=interior

Then add location and time of day/night

FADE IN:

EXT. CARIBBEAN SEA - DAY

A gray, impenetrable wall of fog. From somewhere comes the  
FAINT SOUND of a LITTLE GIRL'S VOICE, singing, slow tempo,  
almost under her breath:

YOUNG ELIZABETH (O.S.)

Yo, ho, yo, ho, a pirate's life for  
me. Yo, ho, yo, ho, it's a pirate's  
life for me ...

Suddenly a massive SHIP emerges from the grey, the Winged  
Victory maidenhead looming. It's a British dreadnought, the  
H.M.S. Dauntless. Formidable, frightening, twenty-five gun  
ports on the side, and rail guns to boot.

EXT. H.M.S. DAUNTLESS - FORECASTLE - DAY

ELIZABETH SWANN, strawberry blonde hair, stands at the bow  
rail, gazing at the sea, still singing --

ELIZABETH

...drink up me hearties, yo, ho ...

JOSHAMEE GIBBS, who was born old, skin a dark leather, clutches  
her shoulder, startling her.

GIBBS

(sotto)

Quiet, missy! Cursed pirates sail  
these waters. You want to call 'em  
down on us?

Elizabeth stares wide-eyed at him.

NORRINGTON

Mr. Gibbs.

NORRINGTON, a dashing young man, Royal Navy to the core, glares  
sternly at Gibbs. Standing beside him is GOVERNOR WEATHERBY  
SWANN, a man of obvious high station, brass buttons on his  
thick blue jacket. He is Elizabeth's father.

NORRINGTON (CONT'D)

That will do.

GIBBS

She was singing about pirates. Bad  
luck to sing about pirates, with  
us mired in this unnatural fog --  
mark my words.

NORRINGTON

Consider them marked. On your way.

GIBBS

'Aye, Lieutenant.

(as he moves off)

Bad luck to have a woman on board,  
too. Even a mini'ture one.

Dialogue goes here.

Center name of who is speaking.

Indent dialogue underneath.

O.S. means "off screen"

V.O. means "voice over"

Describes scene and explains action.  
Not indented.

He returns to his deck-swabbing duties, surreptitiously takes a quick swig from a flask.

ELIZABETH

I think it would be rather exciting to meet a pirate.

NORRINGTON

Think again, Miss Swann. Vile and dissolute creatures, the lot of them. I intend to see to it that any man who sails under a pirate flag, or wears a pirate brand, gets what he deserves: a short drop and a sudden stop.

Elizabeth doesn't know what a 'short drop and a sudden stop' means. Gibbs helpfully mimes: a man being hung.

SWANN

Captain Norrington... I appreciate your fervor, but I am concerned about the effect this subject will have on my daughter.

NORRINGTON

My apologies, Governor.

ELIZABETH

Actually, I find it all fascinating.

SWANN

And that's what concerns me. Elizabeth, we will be landing in Port Royal soon, and beginning our new lives. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we comport ourselves as befits our class and station?

ELIZABETH

Yes, father.

Chastised, she turns away, to look out over the bow rail.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

(to herself)

I still think it would be exciting to meet a pirate ...

The fog still hems in the ship; very little of the sea is visible --

-- but suddenly, a FIGURE comes into view. A young boy, WILL TURNER, floating on his back in the otherwise empty water. There is nothing to show where he came from, or how he came to be there.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

Look! A boy! There's a boy in the water!

Norrington and Swann spot him --

NORRINGTON  
Man overboard!

ELIZABETH  
Boy overboard!

NORRINGTON  
Fetch a hook -- haul him out of  
there!

Quick movement and activity on deck. Sailors use a boathook to snag the boy when he passes. Norrington and Swann haul him aboard, and lay him on the deck. Elizabeth sidles in for a closer look.

NORRINGTON (CONT'D)  
He's still breathing.

SWANN  
Where did he come from?

GIBBS  
Mary mother of God ...

Attention is turned away from the boy --

The sea is no longer empty. WRECKAGE from a ship litters the water ... along with the bodies of its crew. What is left of the ship's hull BURNS, a ragged British flag hanging limply from the stern.

The H.M.S. Dauntless slips silently through it all. The scene calls for hushed voices.

SWANN  
What happened here?

NORRINGTON  
An explosion in the powder magazine.  
Merchant vessels run heavily armed.

GIBBS  
Lot of good it did them ...  
(off Swann's look)  
Everyone's thinking it! I'm just  
saying it! Pirates!

SWANN  
There is no proof of that. It could  
have been an accident. Captain,  
these men were my protection. If  
there is even the slightest chance  
one of those poor devils is still  
alive, we cannot abandon them!

NORRINGTON  
Of course not.  
(to a sailor)  
Rouse the Captain, immediately.  
(to the crew)

Come about and strike the sails!  
Unlash the boats! Gunnery crew ...  
jackets off the cannons!  
(to Swann)  
Hope for the best...prepare for the  
worst.  
(to two sailors)  
Move the boy aft. We'll need the  
deck clear.

They lift the boy. Swann pulls Elizabeth away from the rail,  
away from the hideous scene in the water.

SWANN  
Elizabeth, I want you to accompany  
the boy. He's in your charge now.  
You'll watch over him?

Elizabeth nods gravely. Swann hurries away to help unstow the  
longboat. The sailors lay the boy gently on the poop deck,  
behind the wheel, they hurry off. Elizabeth kneels down beside  
the boy.

His good looks are not lost on her. She reaches out, gently  
brushes the blond hair from his eyes --

Suddenly, he grabs her wrist, awake now. Elizabeth is startled,  
but their eyes lock. She takes his hand in hers.

ELIZABETH  
My name is Elizabeth Swann.

YOUNG WILL  
Will Turner.

ELIZABETH  
I'm watching over you, Will.

He clutches her hands, then slips back into unconsciousness.

His movement has opened the collar of his shirt; Elizabeth sees  
he wears a chain around his neck. She tugs it free,  
revealing --

A GOLD MEDALLION. One side is blank. She turns it over --

A SKULL gazes up at her. Vaguely Aztec in design, but to her  
eyes, it can mean one thing only --

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)  
You're a pirate.

She glances back at the crew. Sees Norrington, giving orders,  
moving toward her.

She looks back at Will -- comes to a quick decision. Takes the  
medallion from around his neck. Hides it under her coat.