

# ALMOST TREASURE ISLAND

A MODERN-DAY PIRATE COMEDY IN ONE ACT

By **Eddie McPherson**

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**ALMOST TREASURE ISLAND**

**By Eddie McPherson**

**CAST OF CHARACTERS**

*(10 MEN, 11 WOMEN, FLEXIBLE)*

- ELI (M).....Modern-day pirate. *(136 lines.)*
- JACK (M) .....Another modern-day pirate. *(128 lines.)*
- LOGAN (M) .....Another modern-day pirate. *(18 lines.)*
- JEFF (M).....Another modern-day pirate who does magic. *(106 lines.)*
- JENNY (F).....Pretending to be a native girl. *(60 lines.)*
- ANDREW (M).....Another modern-day pirate. *(8 lines.)*
- CHRIS (M) .....Another modern-day pirate. *(11 lines.)*
- JASON (M).....Another modern-day pirate. *(11 lines.)*
- NICKY (M).....Another modern-day pirate. *(14 lines.)*
- ROGER (M).....Another modern-day pirate, the leader. *(131 lines.)*
- MARCIA (F).....A modern-day lady pirate. *(42 lines.)*
- SARAH (F) .....Another modern-day lady pirate, the leader. *(130 lines.)*
- SHELLY (F) .....Another modern-day lady pirate. *(29 lines.)*
- MARIE (F).....Another modern-day lady pirate. *(5 lines.)*

TAMMY (F) .....Another modern-day lady pirate. (17 lines.)

ROBIN (F) .....Another modern-day lady pirate. (13 lines.)

PAULINE (F) .....Another modern-day lady pirate. (23 lines.)

RAMONA (F).....Another modern-day lady pirate. (13 lines.)

JUNGLE MAN (M).....Lives in the jungle. (27 lines.)

CRYSTAL (F) .....Pretending to be a native girl. (13 lines.)

RAQUEL (F) .....Also pretending to be a native girl. (12 lines.)

### SET

The set is the beach of a jungle. Trees set about the upstage wall. A palm tree is placed here and there around the stage area. A small change in set may occur when switching from one part of the beach to another (i.e. the movement of a tree or an added sand dune). The disappearing box may stay on the stage throughout the production. When it's covered with the camouflage covering, the audience will, of course, see it, but the actors "can't."

### COSTUMES

The kids throw together modern-day pirate apparel. They may choose to wear bandanas wrapped around their heads, ragged shirts, sandals, etc. ROGER should look more like an old-fashioned pirate since he takes this expedition so seriously. JEFF wears camouflage so he can blend with the disappearing box in Act Two. SARAH wears a safari outfit consisting of khaki colored clothes and a safari hat. JENNY, CRYSTAL and RAQUEL wear tropical bathing suits with grass skirts and leis around their necks and flowers in their hair. Their faces are painted with stripes. The JUNGLE MAN also wears a grass skirt with no shirt. The JUNGLE MAN wears necklaces made out of bones and sharp teeth. War paint covers his chest and face. He may also choose to wear a nose ring. His hair sticks up on top of his head.

## PRODUCTION NOTES

When JACK and ELI are in the boat, they stand stage left or stage right. There needs to be a steering wheel on a stand to represent the boat. The disappearing box needs to be placed so that JEFF and the JUNGLE MAN may enter and exit its back without being seen by the audience. This may be accomplished by placing trees on either side of the box to hide any entrances or exits. Make sure the audience does not see any of this take place. The treasure chest needs to be large enough for JEFF to fit inside. A large plastic storage trunk painted rusty brown works well and may be purchased inexpensively at any large discount store. If you don't have a metal detector, here's how to make one: Take the handle of a mop or broom, attach a small shoebox to its side toward the top, connect a Styrofoam plate at the bottom of the handle, wrap a wire around the broom handle from the box to the plate, spray-paint the entire thing black.

## PROPS

- Eyeglass (*JACK.*)
- Plastic sandcastle shovels (*All male pirates except JEFF and ELI.*)
- Tablespoon (*ELI.*)
- Handkerchief (*JEFF.*)
- Rubber ball (*JEFF.*)
- Black magic marker (*JEFF.*)
- Small paper bag (*JEFF.*)
- Large camouflage covering (*JEFF.*)
- Half of a treasure map (*JEFF.*)
- Whistle on a string (*SARAH.*)
- Compact powder puff (*MARCIA.*)
- Riding crop (*SARAH.*)
- Half of a treasure map (*SARAH.*)
- Back pack (*JACK.*)
- Bag of chips (*ELI.*)
- Newspaper (*JACK.*)
- Magic wand—stick painted black (*JEFF.*)
- Metal detector—See PRODUCTION NOTES (*ELI.*)

- Fake machete (*JUNGLE MAN.*)
- Banana (*All male pirates except JACK and ROGER.*)
- First-aid box (*JACK.*)
- Large syringe (*ROGER.*)
- Scotch tape (*SARAH.*)
- Club or spear (*ELI.*)
- Treasure chest (*Males.*)
- Fake jewelry and stuffed money bags (*JUNGLE MAN.*)

DO NOT COPY

ACT ONE, SCENE 1

**SETTING:**

*Tropical island beach. A dense jungle is visible upstage.*

**AT RISE:**

*We hear distant drums in the darkness. Two modern-day pirates, JACK and ELI, stagger in. JACK holds an eyeglass. Drums fade.*

**ELI:** *(Falling to his knees center stage.)* At last, land! Fantastically, exuberant, scenically delightful, charmingly exquisite, superbly DRY terrain!

**JACK:** *(Looking out over the ocean with his eyeglass.)* You sound like a walking Thesaurus.

**ELI:** *(Standing, looking out over the audience.)* Wow, look at that would you!

**JACK:** *(Dropping his eyepiece.)* What? What do you see?

**ELI:** Water as far as the eye can see.

**JACK:** Of course it's water you dolt! What do you think we've been sailing on for the last three hours, Kool-aid?

**ELI:** *(Looking around, stretching.)* So, this is the island we've been looking for is it?

**JACK:** That's what the map says. Where are Roger and the rest?

**ELI:** You mean Captain Roger don't you?

**JACK:** Look, I told you that the only reason he wants to be called "Captain" is because he owns the boat.

**ELI:** But we all agreed.

**JACK:** I just feel silly calling somebody my own age 'Captain'.

**ELI:** If you don't call him Captain, he'll get mad and take the boat and go home!

**JACK:** Okay, okay! Where are Captain Roger and the rest?

**ELI:** They're right behind us. *(Stretching.)* Just breathe in that fresh island breeze. *(They do.)*

**JACK:** You do realize that if it hadn't been for me finding the treasure map, we wouldn't be on this little adventure don't you?

**ELI:** But if it weren't for Roger's boat . . .

**JACK:** But if it weren't for **MY** map . . .

*JEFF and LOGAN run in.*

**JEFF:** Where is it?

**LOGAN:** Is it full of gold?

**JACK:** *(Looking out to sea through his eyeglasses.)* What are you guys rambling about?

**JEFF:** The treasure chest, where is it?

**ELI:** How should we know? It's still in the ground some place.

**LOGAN:** (*Stretching.*) Well, when you find it, let me know. Think I'll grab a quick nap. (*To JEFF.*) Let's go.

**JACK:** (*Grabbing their shirts.*) Wait just one minute! We are all in this together, so we all do the work!

**JEFF:** Yeah? Who died and made you Captain?

**LOGAN:** I thought Roger was Captain.

**ELI:** He is, but Jack says he should be Captain.

**JACK:** I only said I was the one who found the treasure map.

**JEFF:** Roger's Captain because it's his boat.

**JACK:** (*Has heard it enough.*) I know!

**LOGAN:** You don't have to yell!!!

**JEFF:** Be quiet Logan, you sound like a girl.

**LOGAN:** Hey, that was a low blow. If you want to insult, call me a pig or a dirty rat but don't call me a girl!

**ELI:** He's right Jeff, that was hitting below the belt. Nothing hurts a guy's pride more than being compared to the lowest form of animal on earth.

**JACK:** Try telling that to my sister. She thinks girls are the superior species.

**LOGAN:** That's what I mean. If girls had any brains at all, they would understand that guys are smarter, stronger and faster. I tell my girlfriend that all the time.

**JEFF:** Right, girls are great when they're in their place: granting our every wish.

**ELI:** (*To JEFF.*) Yeah, so next time think about that before calling somebody a girl, especially if he's a boy.

**JACK:** That's exactly why we should all stick together and work as a team. We're at the top of the superiority chair, so let's act like it. If Roger wants to call himself the Captain, fine!

**ELI:** (*Has grabbed the eyeglass and looks out over the audience.*) Wow, look at that would you?

**JEFF:** What is it?

**ELI:** Water.

**JACK:** (*Grabbing the eyeglass.*) We KNOW there's water out there! (*Turns to the others.*) I think we should give him to other side.

**ELI:** There you go calling me a girl again.

**JEFF:** (*Consoling ELI.*) There, there. (*To JACK.*) Now look what you've done. You've upset him. (*ELI is sobbing.*)

**ELI:** All I want to do is help out.

**JEFF:** Of course you do. Mean old Jack didn't mean anything by it. (*JENNY enters timidly.*)

**JACK:** Okay, okay, I'm sorry I shouted. We've been on that boat so long I guess my nerves have been on (*See JENNY.*) a girl!

**LOGAN:** Your nerves have been on a girl?

**JACK:** (*To JENNY.*) Hey you!

**LOGAN:** Me? (*JENNY exits.*)

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**JACK:** Not you you, that you! (*Points to the sand dune.*)

**ELI:** What did I do?

**JACK:** Didn't you guys see her?

**JEFF:** What are you talking about?

**JACK:** I saw something . . . (*Rubbing his eyes.*) someone behind those bushes! Looked like a . . . no, it couldn't be.

**JEFF:** What?

**JACK:** Like a native girl.

**ELI:** A native?

**JEFF:** A girl? Yuck!

**ELI:** Oh my gosh, was it a headhunter? (*Grabbing his neck.*)

**LOGAN:** Don't worry nobody would want your ugly head hanging in her hut.

**ELI:** Heeeeyyyyy!

**LOGAN:** Well, at least I didn't call you a girl.

**JACK:** You guys didn't see it?

**LOGAN:** Maybe you've been on the sea too long Jack. You might have the fever.

**JACK:** What fever?

**LOGAN:** Whatever fever you get for being out on the sea for too long.

**JACK:** (*Rubbing his eyes.*) Maybe my eyes are playing tricks on me in the bright sun.

**JEFF:** Speaking of tricks, I need to practice my magic. Anybody want to see a trick?

**JACK:** I don't think what I saw could have been pulled out of any hat.

**JEFF:** That's old-fashioned stuff. Today we make fingers appear from nowhere and make entire persons disappear.

**JACK:** Making a person disappear isn't new. They've been doing that for years. (*Puts the eyeglass up and looks through it then drops it again.*) Make fingers appear from nowhere?

**JEFF:** Sure! With my magic handkerchief. Fingers appear from nowhere with the right magic touch.

**JACK:** You're touched all right!

*ANDREW, CHRIS, JASON and NICKY run in.*

**ANDREW:** Guys, here comes Roger!

**CHRIS:** And he wants everybody at attention.

**JACK:** That's silly!

**JASON:** May be silly, but he owns the boat!

**NICKY:** Don't want to be left behind do you?

*They make a straight line across the stage. ROGER enters acting very military-looking, very much like an old-fashioned pirate he found in a book somewhere. Drums play off stage. He marches in front of*

"his men" as each one salutes him one by one. When he reaches the end of the line, JACK doesn't salute.

**ROGER:** Do you dare refuse to salute your Captain?

**JACK:** Look, Roger, it's bad enough . . .

**ROGER:** Silence! I said salute me now!

**JACK:** But . . .

**ROGER:** Zip it and salute!!!

*JACK roles his eyes and throws his hand up to his eyes.*

**ROGER:** *(In JACK's face.)* I'll be keeping an eye on you mate! *(Pacing again.)* Well, men, it seems we have reached our appointed destination at last. According to our map, the treasure is buried in this approximate location of the beach. Does everyone understand? *(All but JACK salute and bellow, "Yes sir!" To JACK in his face.)* I said, "Does everybody understand?"

**JACK:** *(Signs.)* I understand.

**ROGER:** Let us check our digging supplies. Present shovels! *(All reach in their back pockets and pull out small shovels. ELI pulls out a tablespoon. JEFF pulls out nothing at all but holds his hand as though he were holding up shovel also.)* Eli, where's your shovel?

**ELI:** I lost it sir.

**ROGER:** Lost it where?

**ELI:** Somewhere between here and home.

**ROGER:** What?

**ELI:** Sir?

**ROGER:** I don't mean 'what' call me sir; I mean 'what' I can't believe you lost your shovel. Never mind!

**ELI:** *(Saluting.)* Eli never minding sir!

**ROGER:** Jeff, where's your shovel?

**JEFF:** Well, you see, I got a little bored on the boat and was practicing one of my magic tricks and . . . well, I accidentally made it disappear.

**ROGER:** What did I tell you about practicing that phony baloney magic stuff on my expedition?

**JEFF:** It's not phony baloney. Watch, I'll show you. *(Steps out from the line and sticks up his pointer finger.)* I present to you a regular human finger. *(To ROGER.)* You may touch and check it out if you'd like.

**ROGER:** *(Starts to touch it then stops.)* I'm not going to touch your finger.

**JEFF:** I take this normal handkerchief *(He pulls one from his pocket.)* and cover this normal human finger. *(He does.)* Now, I say the magic words, A-La Sa da la hombre Julius Caesar, Macaroni and

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meatballs!!! *(He yanks the handkerchief from his hand now revealing two fingers.)*

ALL gasp.

ELI: How did you do that?

NICKY: He really does know magic.

ALL: Woooooooooow!

JACK: I'm surrounded by idiots.

ROGER: That's not magic; any body can do that.

JEFF: You don't believe me? Watch this. *(Presents a small red ball and black magic marker from his pocket.)* Here you have an ordinary red rubber ball. *(To JACK.)* Hold it.

JACK: I'm not going to waste time . . .

ROGER: Play along Jack so that we can get on with our excursion. *(JACK does.)*

JEFF: Now write a number on the ball, but don't let me or any of the others see it. *(As JACK does this JEFF pulls a small paper bag from his pocket.)* Now, place the ball into this bag. *(He does. JEFF holds up the bag and waves his hand around it.)* Hmmmmmmm-hickory dickory doll-We now will pass the ball-From you *(Holds the bag over JACK's head then over LOGAN's and so on. As he does this and says 'and you' each pirate reacts with a strange face as though they felt something.)* Sheeeee saaaaaad, heeeeeee saaaaaaid, tamale enchilada . . . boomerang, ala same, mama names YOU! *(He has approached NICKY.)* I have passed the ball from Jack through each one of you. Nick, would you kindly reach into your pocket and pull out the ball.

NICKY: Come on, I don't want . . .

ROGER: Do it Nicky. *(NICKY reaches in and pulls out a red ball bearing the same number that JACK had written.)*

JEFF: *(Taking the ball.)* Jack, what number did you write?

JACK: Eight.

JEFF: *(Holding the ball up.)* I present to you number eight.

ALL: *(Gasp, then ad-lib.)* Wow. I don't believe it. Look at that would you?

JACK: How did you . . . ?

JEFF: *(Holding up his hand.)* Please, no autographs.

ROGER: Okay, that's enough! Back in formation Jeff.

JEFF: Wait, you haven't seen my best trick of all!

ROGER: Jeff, I said that was enough.

JEFF: But I've been practicing for weeks.

ANDREW: Come on Roger, let him finish his act.

ROGER: This is Vaudeville!

JASON: What's Vaudeville?

**JEFF:** (*Interrupting.*) I've got it all set up right over here. He crosses to the box which is covered with camouflage covering.)

**JACK:** What is?

**JEFF:** My disappearing box.

**ELI:** Where?

**JEFF:** Here.

**CHRIS:** That's it, he's definitely gone crazy.

**JEFF:** I'm not kidding. Watch. (*He pulls the camouflage covering off.*) See?

**ELI:** Hey, that WAS a pretty good trick!

**JEFF:** That wasn't the trick. You just couldn't see it because I had this camouflage blanket over it.

**ELI:** You really are a magician!

**ROGER:** Eli, are you pretending or are you really that dumb?

**ELI:** (*Thinks a moment.*) Is this a trick question?

**JEFF:** I present to you my fellow pirate companions, the trick of the century. I will now step inside this mysterious contraption only to disintegrate into the magic realm beyond. Once I close the curtain to other dimensions, Nicky will count to ten and reopen the box to reveal I have disappeared!

**ROGER:** (*Looking at his watch.*) I can't believe he's wasting our time.

**JEFF:** (*Stepping into the box.*) As your gazing eyes glower upon my . . .

**ROGER:** (*Quickly.*) Nicky. (*NICKY closes the curtain as JEFF is still speaking.*) Start counting Eli. (*ELI looks straight out silently. This goes on for ten or fifteen seconds.*) Out loud!

**ELI:** Two . . . Three . . .

**JACK:** Never mind! One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten!

**ROGER:** Open the stupid curtain. (*NICKY does and there stands JEFF with his eyes closed.*)

**NICKY:** Uh, Jeff?

**JEFF:** (*Opens his eyes.*) That was quick. How long was I gone?

**JASON:** You weren't gone!

**ROGER:** (*Taking the camouflage covering.*) Get out of there before I send you to another realm.

**JEFF:** (*Stepping out of the box.*) I don't understand it. I know I did everything right.

**ROGER:** Jeff, you've never done anything right in your life. (*As he recovers the box.*) Now, back in formation.

**JEFF:** (*Getting back in place.*) I don't understand it, I just don't understand it.

**JACK:** (*To himself.*) He's such a fake.

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**ROGER:** Okay Jeff, so you've proven you can accomplish a few feats of magic. If you are as good as you say you are, tell us where the treasure is buried.

**JEFF:** I'm a magician, sir, not a psychic.

**ROGER:** Then I would suggest you keep your silly hocus pocus to yourself and keep your mind on the hunt!

**JEFF:** *(Saluting but deflated.)* Yes sir!

**ROGER:** Who has the map?

**JACK:** I do.

**ROGER:** I do what?

**JACK:** *(Sincere.)* I do have the map.

**ROGER:** You do have the map 'sir'!

**JACK:** You don't have to call me sir.

**ROGER:** You call me . . . never mind! Hand me the map! *(He does and ROGER unrolls it.)* Ahhh, our ticket to riches beyond all comprehension. Logan, hold the map. *(LOGAN emerges and holds the map so ROGER can read it. ROGER looks closely.)* According to the markings, the treasure is buried sixteen paces past the horse shaped palm tree, thirty yards from the blue coral reef—past—past- . . . wait a minute, give me that! *(He grabs the map. Looks around the stage then back to the map.)* Something is wrong with this map.

**NICKY:** What do you mean sir?

**ROGER:** *(Pointing.)* It has the 'X' where the treasure is buried; yet there's no starting point. Jack where's the rest of the map?

**JACK:** I don't know what you mean.

**ROGER:** *(Pointing.)* This can't be the entire map, it has a destination but not origin. This is only half the map.

**JACK:** That's impossible.

**ROGER:** Look for yourself. *(JACK does. He looks about the stage then at the map.)*

**ELI:** Hey, what's the big idea? Who ever heard of half a treasure map?

**JACK:** This doesn't make any sense.

**ROGER:** *(To JACK.)* Was this the condition you found the map or is there something you're not telling us?

**ELI:** Yeah, is there something you're not telling us?

**ALL:** Yeah!

**JACK:** What is that supposed to mean?

**ELI:** *(To ROGER.)* What is that supposed to mean?

**ROGER:** Perhaps the other half of the map has been conveniently tucked away someplace for some other time and for some other treasure hunt.

**JACK:** You can't be suggesting I hid it?

**ROGER:** If the shoe fits wear it.

**NICKY:** The guilty dog barks first.

**ELI:** A treasure hidden is a treasure under the dirt.

**ROGER:** Stay out of this Eli!

**ELI:** (*Saluting at attention.*) Eli staying out of it sir!

**JASON:** (*To ROGER.*) He probably got mad and hid the map because we made you Captain, sir!

**ALL:** Yeah!!

**ROGER:** (*Circling.*) Ahhh, is that it Jack? Is this a jealousy act because I was voted to lead this expedition?

**JACK:** Look, this is the same map I found at the yard sale. I bought the frame for my sister, Sarah.

**CHRIS:** But why would there be only half a map?

**JACK:** How should I know?

**CHRIS:** I say let's hang the traitor.

**ANDREW:** Throw him to the crocks!

**LOGAN:** Make him walk the plank!

**JEFF:** Off with his head!

**ELI:** Untie his shoestrings!

**JACK:** Look, I said I'd play along with our little Captain game, but if you are going to start accusing me of things I didn't do I'll take what treasure map I do have and go back home?

**ROGER:** Go back home? Did you hear that men? He's going to go back home. Since I own the boat, I wonder how he might do that, (*Sarcastically.*) swim? (*They laugh.*)

**NICKY:** Hop a train? (*They laugh.*)

**JASON:** Catch a bus? (*Laughter.*)

**ELI:** Tie some bamboo poles together with vines, use a large flat stick for an oar and paddle back in? (*All start to laugh but stop abruptly.*)

**CHRIS:** Hey, yeah.

**ANDREW:** He could do that.

**JEFF:** That would be easy.

**ROGER:** Of course if he were to try and paddle back to the main land, a shark would surely love to have him for a little late night snack. Now, shall we get back to the matter at hand? Think back, Jack. What kind of frame was it?

**JACK:** Well, when you open it up, this side was an iron type material

**ROGER:** Wait a minute, when you open it up?

**JACK:** Yeah, it had two frames joined by small hinges and I took the back off both sides to place my sister's pictures inside when I discovered . . . Wait a minute, that's right, there were two frames and a section of the map was placed on either side . . .

**ROGER:** So there are two pieces of the map?

**JACK:** I remember now, I put both pieces in my hiding place.

**ROGER:** Does anybody know about your hiding place?

**JACK:** No, that's why I call it my hiding place. The other half must be in my backpack on the boat. When I grabbed the map after docking, I only grabbed half.

**ROGER:** All right, all right; be quiet and let me think. Look, it's been a long day so here's the plan. We'll make camp in the clearing right through those trees. *(He points to the upstage wall.)* We'll eat a bite and turn in early. Jack, you go to the boat and retrieve the other half of that treasure map. We will begin our search first thing in the morning. Men, secure your digging supplies! *(They all hold up their shovels and take a tight hold of them with their fists.)* Attention! About face! *(All but ELI turn left, he turns right then fixes it.)* Forward, MARCH!

BLACKOUT.

## ACT ONE, SCENE 2

*Distant drums. It's a different part of the island. We know this because of a slight change such as an added sand dune, etc. SARAH holds an eyeglass and looks out over the audience. She looks quite equipped for a few days in the wild complete with safari hat etc. There's a scream off stage. Drums fade. MARCIA runs in crying.*

**MARCIA:** Sarah, it's terrible! It's awful! Oh, Sarah!

**SARAH:** Quiet down, Marcia and tell me what you're rambling about.

**MARCIA:** *(Trying to hold back her sobs.)* Well, *(Sniff.)* you see, I was helping Marie split a coconut with Robin's machete and Marie was holding the coconut like this and I came down like this and that's when *(Sob.)* that's when . . . Ohhhh!

**SARAH:** *(Grabbing her shoulders.)* Stop your sniveling, you're acting like a boy.

**MARCIA:** *(Stops crying abruptly.)* That was a low blow!

**SARAH:** You're right, I don't know what came over me. I'm sure you have a very reasonable explanation for being so upset. What's the matter?

**MARCIA:** *(Holding up a finger.)* I broke a fingernail. *(Cries loudly.)*

**SARAH:** *(Quite forcefully.)* Marcia, calm down . . . *(MARCIA stops crying abruptly and wraps herself with her arms.)* It's only a nail! Those things will happen out here in the untamed wild. Get used to it. *(Goes back to the eyeglass.)*

**MARCIA:** *(Still sniffing.)* I don't like it out here. Too many bugs. *(Slaps one on her neck and scratches it.)*

**SARAH:** Let 'em bite. Let every stinging insect in the world take a bite out of me because that treasure chest will be worth it.

**MARCIA:** This humidity is causing my hair to go limp.

**SARAH:** Oh, good. Then it will match your brain.

**MARCIA:** (*Not getting the insult.*) Thanks. What are you looking at?

**SARAH:** I thought I saw something swimming in the water.

**MARCIA:** What, a shark?

**SARAH:** No, it was too small to be a shark.

**MARCIA:** A purpose?

**SARAH:** What's a purpose?

**MARCIA:** You know, like Flipper.

**SARAH:** Oh, a porpoise. No, it was too small to be a porpoise.

**MARCIA:** (*Laughing.*) Maybe it was a mermaid.

**SARAH:** (*Putting down her eyeglass.*) That's exactly what it looked like.

**MARCIA:** What? That's silly; mermaids don't really exist . . . do they? (*Silence.*) Sarah?

**SARAH:** My eyes must be playing tricks on me out here in this bright sun. But I could have sworn it was a girl . . . anyway, what are the others doing?

**MARCIA:** (*Looking at and biting her broken nail.*) They're in the jungle picking berries and coconuts.

*SARAH blows a whistle she has hanging around her neck.*

**MARCIA:** Is it almost time to go home now? I need a hot bubble bath.

*JENNY pops her head up as though the whistle scared her.*

**SARAH:** (*Pointing.*) Look!

**MARCIA:** Wow. Is she the mermaid?

**SARAH:** (*Taking a step toward JENNY.*) Hello? Hello? (*JENNY runs off.*)

**MARCIA:** Come back little mermaid, come back!

**SARAH:** Stop that, she wasn't the mermaid!

*SHELLY, MARIE, TAMMY, ROBIN, PAULINE, RAMONA enter. They ad-lib as they cross to SARAH. "My back is killing me; Came this close to a scorpion; These coconuts are heavy," etc.*

**SARAH:** Come along girls, move on in, that's it, hurry now, hurry. (*They form a line across the stage. Their hair is mussed up and some are wiping their foreheads with handkerchiefs.*)

**SHELLY:** Can't we call it a day, Sarah?

**MARIE:** Let's go back to camp, my feet are killing me.

**TAMMY:** My shoulder aches.

**ROBIN:** My arm aches.

**PAULINE:** My hair aches.

**MARCIA:** Did everybody see the mermaid?

**RAMONA:** Mermaid, what are you talking about?

**SARAH:** (To **MARCIA**.) I told you she wasn't a mermaid, she had legs.

**SHELLY:** Who had legs?

**SARAH:** A native girl. I don't know. She ran away.

**PAULINE:** Do you think it could be someone after our treasure chest?

**MARCIA:** (Applying a powder puff to her nose.) Look at that, this heat is causing my make up to run. I'm not convinced this so called treasure is worth flawing my beautiful complexion.

*Another Native, a man this time, pops up from some brush and watches the GIRLS for a second. He stands there for a moment then exits without being seen.*

**SHELLY:** Girls we should build Marcia a shelter so her perfect face won't get flawed.

**MARCIA:** Stop it with the sarcasm Shelly.

**SHELLY:** Oh, was I being sarcastic?

**MARCIA:** I said stop it!

**SARAH:** Both of you stop acting like a couple of boys.

**SHELLY:** (To **SARAH** appalled.) I can't believe you said that to me.

**MARCIA:** We all promised to never use the 'B' word while on this trip.

**RAMONA:** Right! They're okay to date but they're not good for anything else.

**SARAH:** I just wanted to get everybody's attention that's all. (Slapping a riding crop to her palm.) We knew these conditions would be harsh! We knew the heat would be humid and the jungle treacherous.

**SHELLY:** But why are we the ones doing all the work? While we're picking coconuts in the jungle, you're out here on the beach in the open breeze. (All **GIRLS** ad-lib agreement: "Yeah! That's right!" etc.)

**SARAH:** (Pacing as **ROGER** did before.) I know it must seem unfair, but as your chosen leader it's up to me to comb the beach for any danger.

**PAULINE:** (With hands on hips.) I don't see you holding any comb.

**MARCIA:** (Holding up her finger.) Look girls, I even broke a nail. (All gasp.)

**ROBIN:** How do we know there really is any treasure out here anyway?

**SARAH:** (Holding up a map.) It's on the map, ancient and authentic.

**MARCIA:** That treasure map better be the real thing.

**SARAH:** It's real all right. Checked and researched it myself.

**PAULINE:** Then it's really okay. Sarah's the smartest person I know.

**SARAH:** I am, aren't I?

**SHELLY:** A real treasure map is better than a Macy's sales catalog.

**RAMONA:** Better than a shopping spree in Paris!

**PAULINE:** *(Spoiled the moment.)* Better than peanut butter and onion sandwiches!

**SARAH:** Anything's better than peanut butter and onion sandwiches.

**ROBIN:** *(To SARAH.)* And you're sure the treasure map belongs to you?

**SARAH:** Of course. Jack bought some picture frames for me at a yard sale. I paid for the frames, so I benefit from the added bonus of whatever is inside.

**TAMMY:** It's like buying Cracker Jacks. A little prize is included.

**SARAH:** Exactly! Except this isn't any little prize. It's quite substantial.

*At the extreme right side of the stage, JACK and ELI stand in the boat. The GIRLS freeze. Check PRODUCTION NOTES. JACK holds a backpack that he's going through.*

**JACK:** It's not here. I don't understand it.

**ELI:** *(Eating a bag of chips.)* What's not here?

**JACK:** The other half of the map. It's not in my backpack.

**ELI:** Are you sure that's where you put it?

**JACK:** *(Just got an idea.)* Of course, Sarah.

**ELI:** I'm not Sarah, I'm Eli.

**JACK:** No!

**ELI:** I'm not Eli?

**JACK:** The person who took the map.

**ELI:** I didn't take the map.

**JACK:** Sarah!

**SARAH:** *(As JACK and ELI freeze.)* Jack thought he should have the treasure map since he picked the frame. I thought the map should belong to me since he bought the frame for me. I paid for it.

**JACK:** *(As SARAH and the GIRLS freeze.)* She thought the map should belong to her since I bought the frame for her. But I'm the one who picked it out. The treasure map is mine!

**ELI:** Sounds just like the way a girl would think.

**SHELLY:** The map is definitely yours!

**MARCIA:** How did you convince Jack to let you take the map?

**SARAH:** I didn't. He hid the map in his room and I snuck in while he was away and grabbed it. *(Holds up the map.)* Viola! *(The GIRLS applaud.)*

ALMOST TREASURE ISLAND

**JACK:** That treasure seeking little sneak. She must have slipped in when I wasn't in my room and snatched the map! Only she didn't know there were two parts to it.

**SHELLY:** Didn't Jack become suspicious when the map came up missing?

**RAMONA:** You're forgetting we're talking about a boy.

**SARAH:** Before he had time to discover it missing, we were on the ocean heading for the treasure.

**PAULINE:** Sarah, you're smarter than my dog.

**JACK:** That little sneaking, underhanded, jealous (*Using the last terrible adjective he can think of.*) female! We've got to tell the others so we can figure out what we're going to do. Let's go!

*He and ELI exit stage right.*

**MARCIA:** (*Biting her broken nail.*) Can't we just start digging tonight so we can get home to our own beds?

**SARAH:** (*Looking at the map.*) Okay, everybody, pay attention! We starts here which is where we are now. We follow the map . . . we follow . . . we begin the search . . .

**TAMMY:** What's the matter Sarah?

**SARAH:** This side of the island is where . . .

**ROBIN:** Sarah, what's wrong?

**SARAH:** Oh no!

**PAULINE:** I don't like the sound of that 'Oh no'!

**SARAH:** How could I have been so stupid?

**SHELLY:** Probably learned it from Pauline.

**SARAH:** This is only half the treasure map. Half the map must have been on each side of the . . . (*Plops down.*) I can't believe this. I forgot the map was split in two parts, one inside each of the folded frames. We have the beginning the map, but not the part where the treasure is buried.

**TAMMY:** This is not good; this is not good at all.

*JENNY sneaks in.*

**MARIE:** Excuse me! (*JENNY runs out.*)

**TAMMY:** Come back here!

**MARCIA:** Ohhhhhhh! (*Sitting.*) Now I do want to go home! Natives running around, only half a treasure map, a broken fingernail. I don't think I'm cut out for adventure.

**SARAH:** This place may be swamped with natives which means we **really** need to hurry! There has to be a way to get to that treasure chest. Think Pauline!

**PAULINE:** Okay, but it doesn't always work.

**ROBIN:** If only we had a gas station.

**SARAH:** This is no time to be thinking about a Pepsi.

**ROBIN:** No, I mean a place we could stop and ask directions.

**SHELLY:** (*Sarcastically.*) Oh sure. (*Pretending to ring a bell.*) Ding, ding, ding. Excuse me we're lost. Could you tell us how to get to the nearest treasure chest?

**ROBIN:** I don't see you coming up with any ideas.

**SHELLY:** Any idea would be better than a Bp station.

**SARAH:** (*Between them.*) Girls, girls. We're all we've got. Please try to get along. As a matter of fact, asking for directions may not be such a bad idea.

**ROBIN:** (*To SHELLY.*) See? (*Then surprised.*) Really?

**TAMMY:** Who are we going to ask directions from, a monkey?

*GIRLS laugh.*

**RAMONA:** A parakeet? (*All laugh.*)

**SARAH:** How about a jungle girl?

**PAULINE:** Huh?

**SARAH:** The native girl. She's probably lived her whole life on this island; she may know where the treasure's buried.

**PAULINE:** Hey, yeah!

**SHELLY:** But you saw her run away when she saw Pauline's face.

**MARCIA:** Did you see her hair? Total disgrace. She wasn't scared; she was ashamed for us to see her appearance.

**SARAH:** (*Hands cupped around her mouth.*) Keela-so-lamp-keen-Na Cha!

**MARIE:** What are you doing?

**SARAH:** Calling her. (*Again.*) Keela-so-lamp-keen-Na Cha!

**TAMMY:** You can speak her language?

**SARAH:** I took a course in Native Island dialect last summer while you girls were hanging around at the mall.

**SHELLY:** Native Island Dialect? I don't think I would admit that if I were you.

**SARAH:** Shhhhhh, I'm trying to concentrate. Keela-so-lamp-keen-Na Cha! (*Please listen.*)

**ROBIN:** Sarah, this isn't going to work, let's just go home. (*She sits on a rock with her back to stage left.*) My back hurts, my feet hurt, I'm sun burned. (*This time three Native Girls enter behind ROBIN's back.*)

**SARAH:** (*Collecting with the rest of the GIRLS in a small huddle. To Natives.*) Hello.

**ROBIN:** Hello. (*To SARAH.*) I've been bitten by every bug on the island. I've got sand in my shoes. (*Look back and sees the Native Girls without missing a beat.*) I can't brush my teeth, jungle girls sneaking up behind my back, salt water in my eyes. (*Pauses, then screams and joins the others.*) She . . . she came back!

**MARCIA:** And brought friends.

**PAULINE:** Please don't hurt us! If you're going to kill one of us—  
(Pushing SHELLY out front.) —kill her! She has a lot more meat  
on her bones. Mmmmmmmmm, tasty girl. Yum, yum! (The three  
Natives look at one another bewildered.)

**SARAH:** (Struggling to find words.) Uh, Ne bo shalla Na boom boo.  
(Points to the group of GIRLS.) Uh . . . Greta sun ada Tempra.  
(They are confused.) I'm not getting through.

**MARCIA:** Here, let me try. (As she speaks, she demonstrates with  
her hands and speaks very loudly.) We take ship. Travel on  
water. Come to island. Follow map. Break fingernail.

**SARAH:** Marcia you're not talking to Tonto. They have their own  
language.

**JENNY:** Creama. To lolo ba rata.

**MARCIA:** (Very loudly.) We take ship go over water. Land on  
island! Look for . . . !

**SARAH:** Marcia, would you stop it. (Turns to Jungle Girls.) Me  
Sarah!

**JENNY:** Hello, I'm Jenny. This is Crystal and this is Raquel.

**CRYSTAL AND RAQUEL:** Hello.

**PAULINE:** Wow, they sure do learn fast.

**SARAH:** You speak English?

**JENNY:** Sure.

**PAULINE:** Hey, are you going to cut off our heads?

**JENNY:** (Laughs.) Not today, no.

**SARAH:** I don't understand. What are you doing here?

**CRYSTAL:** (Referring to JENNY.) It was all her crazy idea.

**RAQUEL:** Yeah, we just wanted to go to acting school.

**SARAH:** Acting school? I don't follow.

**JENNY:** We are auditioning for a new movie next month. The parts  
are Jungle women on a deserted island.

**SARAH:** So you came here to practice getting into your roles.

**JENNY:** I thought this would be the best training we could  
experience in a short amount of time.

**ROBIN:** You sure do take acting seriously.

**CRYSTAL:** The competition is fierce.

**RAQUEL:** Whatever it takes.

**SARAH:** You sure fooled me.

**JENNY:** Really?

**PAULINE:** Not me, I knew you were fake from the very beginning.

**SHELLY:** You thought they were going to cut off your head.

**JENNY:** This is embarrassing. We thought we were going to be  
alone way out here.

**CRYSTAL:** Yeah, we were surprised when we saw the boys. I told  
Jenny I thought this place was supposed to be deserted.

**SARAH:** Same here, and when we saw you . . . wait a minute, what boys?

**RAQUEL:** The boys we saw down on the beach.

**PAULINE:** We didn't bring any boys with us.

**JENNY:** Then those were the ugliest bunch of girls I've ever seen.

**SARAH:** But that can't be, we're all here, I mean . . .

**TAMMY:** Sarah, do you suppose someone else is here after the treasure?

**SARAH:** Wait a minute, all of a sudden I'm not feeling too well. Was one of the boys *(Describes JACK right down to the clothes.)*?

**JENNY:** As a matter of fact, yes.

**SHELLY:** Sarah, what's wrong?

**SARAH:** We're in lots of trouble, that's what's wrong.

**RAMONA:** I don't understand.

**SARAH:** Jack must have found out I took half of his map and followed us here.

**RAQUEL:** No, we overheard everything. They don't know what happened to the other half of the map. They think they left it on the boat.

**MARCIA:** Sarah, they're going to come after us, they'll throw us to the sharks or make us walk the plank or worse yet force us to go without make-up in public.

**SARAH:** *(Thinking.)* So they don't know we're here. We've got to keep it that way. *(Gets an idea.)* Jenny, who is superior, boys or girls?

**JENNY:** Girls of course, why?

**SARAH:** We need your help finding this treasure. We females must stick together. After all he bought the frame for me so I think I . . .

**JENNY:** *(Holding up her hand.)* That's okay, you don't have to explain. We know the whole story.

**SARAH:** Then you'll help us?

**CRYSTAL:** One for all and all for one!

**RAQUEL:** Like I always say, girls always stick together, but boys are jerks.

**MARCIA:** What's the plan Sarah?

**SARAH:** Let me think. We've got to get the boys off the island but somehow keep their half of the map with us.

**PAULINE:** But they would never hand the map over to us.

**SARAH:** Of course not, that's why we've got to out smart them.

**SHELLY:** That won't be hard, but how?

**SARAH:** *(Turning to Jungle Girls.)* How confident are you with your acting abilities?

**JENNY:** Pretty confident.

**CRYSTAL:** I say very confident! After all we are women!

**SARAH:** Good! Okay everybody, here's the plan. *(The GIRLS huddle together.)*

BLACKOUT.

ACT ONE, SCENE 3

*We're back on the boys' side of the island. It's the next morning and they are just beginning to stir. ROGER, JACK and ELI enter.*

**JACK:** *(Stretching.)* What a terrible night.

**ROGER:** *(Rubbing his backside.)* That ground was hard as a rock.

**ELI:** *(Starts doing jumping jacks.)* 1-2-3-4-5- . . .

**ROGER:** *(Unrolling the map.)* We'll scout out the area before waking the others. Jack, hand me the other half of the map. *(JACK hands him a rolled up newspaper. ROGER unrolls it.)* Okay, the first thing we need to do is match . . . uh, Jack?

**JACK:** Yeah?

**ROGER:** This is a newspaper.

**JACK:** Well, look at that. I must have grabbed the newspaper instead of the map. Silly me. Hand me the comics section will you?

**ROGER:** If you grabbed the newspaper by mistake then simply go back to the boat and retrieve the map.

**ELI:** *(Running in place.)* He can't sir.

**JACK:** *(Turning sharply.)* Eli!

**ROGER:** What do you mean he can't? *(Turning to JACK.)* What does he mean you can't?

**ELI:** His sister took it. We don't have it with us.

**JACK:** Eli!

**ROGER:** What? WHAT? We don't have the other half of the map. Would you mind telling me how we can find this priceless chest of treasure without the other half of the map?!

**JACK:** *(Thinks.)* Well . . .

**ROGER:** I trusted you Jack. I believed you when you said you had the map. One responsibility I give you and you blow it.

**ELI:** You did blow it Jack.

**JEFF:** *(Entering yawning.)* What's going on over here?

**ROGER:** You're about to see a flogging that's all.

**JACK:** Now, Roger, it's not the end of the world. We can find the chest some other way.

**JEFF:** Maybe we could use my magic set.

**ROGER:** Jeff, I've heard enough about your magic set. Pulling a rabbit out of a hat just isn't going to do the trick this time.

**JEFF:** Duh, I didn't suppose it would. But this might. *(Pulls out a magic wand.)*

**JACK:** What's that?

**JEFF:** It's a genuine magic treasure-finding wand.

**ELI:** You mean you just happened to have a treasure-finding wand with you? What luck.

**ROGER:** You don't actually think we believe that stick is magic do you?

**JEFF:** Well, actually it's a find-anything wand.

**ROGER:** Actually, it's a cardboard stick bought at a cheap trick shop.

**JACK:** Jeff, stop wasting our time.

**JEFF:** I'm serious guys, it finds whatever you tell it to find. Watch. Stick, I'm looking for sand. *(The stick waves around for a few seconds then points to the ground.)* See?

**ELI:** Wow, it works!

**ROGER:** Oh brother!

**JACK:** You're causing it to do that.

**JEFF:** Wait; let's do something else. Stick, find a cloud. *(With a little pizzazz, the stick points to the sky.)* See? Stick, find an empty seashell. *(It points to ELI's head.)*

**JACK:** It got the empty part right.

**ROGER:** Stop with the magic stuff already.

**JEFF:** Stick, find the party pooper who is the unbeliever. *(The stick points to ROGER.)*

**ROGER:** Give me that! *(Grabs it and breaks it over his knee.)*

**JEFF:** Hey, that thing cost me fifteen bucks.

**ROGER:** I'll pay you back when we find the treasure. Or, *(Looking at JACK.)* should I say IF we find the treasure.

**ELI:** We could use my metal detector.

**ROGER:** *(Sarcastically.)* Oh, sure Eli use your metal detector. *(Double take.)* Use your what?

**JACK:** You have a metal detector?

**ELI:** Yeah, I always carry it with me when I go to the beach.

**ROGER:** Why didn't you say anything?

**JEFF:** *(To ROGER.)* Sure, you'll use his metal detector but you wouldn't hear of using my magic stick.

**ROGER:** Eli, quick, go get your metal detector.

**ELI:** *(Saluting.)* Yes sir! *(Runs off.)*

**ROGER:** *(Rubbing his hands together.)* Now, we're getting somewhere. This trip may not be a waste of time after all.

*JENNY enters.*

**JEFF:** If I only had something in my magic set that would send us someone who could help us find the treasure. *(He turns and sees JENNY.)* Like this Jungle Girl for example.

**JACK:** Hey, it's the jungle girls I saw earlier. Hello!

**JENNY:** *(Innocently twirling the end of her hair with her fingers in a very flirting way.)* He-ll-o?

**JACK:** She said 'hello'.

ALMOST TREASURE ISLAND

**ROGER:** Watch out, Jack, she could be dangerous.

**JACK:** She looks harmless.

**JEFF:** That's what my best friend said before he got bit by a bulldog and got rabies!

**ROGER:** *(To JENNY.)* You friend-ly?

**JENNY:** Friend-ly?

**ROGER:** *(Places his arms around his friends.)* We friend-ly. You friend-ly?

**JENNY:** Me friend-ly. *(Crosses to JACK and places her arm around his shoulders.)* Me ve-ry friend-ly.

**JACK:** *(A little uncomfortable.)* Yep, she friendly.

**ROGER:** *(To JENNY.)* You speak Eng-lish?

**JENNY:** Eng-lish?

**ROGER:** We are A-me-ri-cans.

**JENNY:** Ahhhh, me speak A-mer-I-ca. Yah, yah! Baseball. Apple pie. *(Hugging JACK.)* Me friendly!

**JEFF:** What do you know, she understands.

**JACK:** Maybe she understands too well!

**JEFF:** Why is she hugging Jack when I'm the best-looking guy here?

**JACK:** It's obvious she knows a real hunk when she sees one.

**ROGER:** *(To JEFF.)* She has probably mistaken him for her pet monkey.

**JACK:** Do I sense a little jealousy, Roger?

**ROGER:** *(Pulling JACK away.)* Could I see you for a minute? What are you doing? Can't you see this is our opportunity to get help finding the treasure?

**JACK:** I can't help it because she finds me irresistible.

**ROGER:** She does seem to have taken a fancy to you. I guess being on a deserted island for so long has made her island happy.

**JACK:** Thanks. *(Gets it.)* Heeyyy!

**ROGER:** We can use that to our advantage. Keep flirting with her so she'll stick around.

**JACK:** I don't know how to flirt with a savage native!

**ROGER:** It's a step up from the girls you've been going out with. Just act suave and distinguished.

**JACK:** Got it! What does suave mean?

**ROGER:** Macho. Like the guy in that spy movie we watched the other night.

**JACK:** Oh yeah! Here goes. *(He turns and struts back to JENNY, JEFF is showing her a magic trick.)*

**JEFF:** Here you see one finger. I cover it with my magic handkerchief, say the magic words, 'Tingle, twingle, valley hoo. One human finger will now become two'. *(He quickly removes the handkerchief still revealing only one finger.)* Ta da!! Oooops, I messed up somewhere.

**ROGER:** *(Pushing JEFF away.)* Get out of here Houdini. *(To JENNY referring to JACK.)* My FRIEND. You like? *(JACK sucks in his gut and throws out his chest.)*

**JENNY:** *(Placing her arm inside JACK's.)* Ahhh, I like.

**JACK:** Ah shucks. *(ELI runs in with his metal detector. He's out of breath.)*

**ELI:** I got here as quickly as I could.

**ROGER:** Good job Eli. *(Takes the metal detector.)* With our personal Jungle guide and our trusted metal detector, we can't miss finding that treasure. How does this thing work?

**ELI:** The 'on' switch is there on top.

**ROGER:** *(Flips the switch.)* It doesn't work.

**ELI:** Of course not, it doesn't have batteries? *(Sees JENNY.)* Hey, who's she?

**ROGER:** It doesn't have batteries? Why didn't you tell me it didn't have batteries?

**ELI:** You didn't ask.

**ROGER:** Jack, here *(Handing him the map.)* do something with this. Put it in a very safe place.

**JACK:** Hold on to it for me Eli. I have my hands full. *(ELI places it in his back pocket.)*

**ROGER:** Oh no you don't! Something is bound to happen to the map if you have it. Give it to me where it will be safe! *(Takes the map from ELI and places it inside his back pocket.)*

**JENNY:** *(Moving to ROGER.)* Map? You have map? *(Slips her arm through his.)*

**JACK:** Hey, where are you going?

**ROGER:** Treasure map. To-find-treasure-on-island.

**JENNY:** Trea-sure? Is-land?

**ELI:** That's not fair. You never trust me with anything!

**ROGER:** *(Looking at JENNY.)* That's right, I don't.

**ELI:** How can I prove I'm trustworthy if I'm never given the chance?

**ROGER:** Well, okay. *(Removing the map from his pocket and handing it to ELI.)* But guard it with your life! *(Turns to JENNY.)* Now, what were we saying?

**JENNY:** *(Removes her arm and crosses to ELI, placing her arms around him. He's fiddling with his metal detector.)* Me very friendly.

**ROGER:** Heeeeeeeey!

**JENNY:** *(To ELI.)* You friend-ly to Jungle Girl?

**ELI:** Handsome? Me?

**JEFF:** Handsome: Him?

**JENNY:** *(Running her fingers through his hair.)* You take walk with Jungle Girl?

**JACK:** Wait one minute. She was liking me.

**ROGER:** No she wasn't, she was liking me.

ALMOST TREASURE ISLAND

**ELI:** *(Dropping his metal detector.)* Well, now she likes me. *(Presents his arm as JENNY takes it.)* May I have the pleasure?

**JENNY:** You very friendly. *(She places her head on his shoulder.)*

**ELI:** Hmm, I've got the map and the girl. Who's the loser now guys? *(As they exit. ELI struts the best he can but he's not very good at it.)*

**JACK:** Hey! Come back here with my Jungle Girl! *(He exits after them.)*

**ROGER:** I should have known he would mess up everything. Eli, come back here, we need her! Jeff, grab the metal detector and follow me!

**JEFF:** Yes sir! *(They exit. A moment later SARAH, CRYSTAL, RAQUEL and MARCIA enter and start giggling.)*

**SARAH:** They fell for it hook line and sinker.

**PAULINE:** Boys are so gullible.

**SARAH:** If I have my guess, the map will be in our hands within the hour. Wait a minute, she's with Eli, make that half an hour. *(They laugh.)*

*The Native Man shows himself again without being noticed by the GIRLS. He stares at them.*

**CRYSTAL:** Did you see the look on their faces? They actually believed she was a jungle girl.

**RAQUEL:** *(Remembering.)* You are, how I say? Hand-some. *(They laugh.)*

**MARCIA:** She'd have to really be acting to say something like that.

*JEFF enters, stops when he sees the GIRLS and hides.*

**SARAH:** Okay girls, let's keep our wits about us. When Jenny returns with the map we will have to act quickly. Once they find it gone, they'll start searching the island.

**MARCIA:** There's no reason why we can't start digging first thing in the morning.

**SARAH:** Let's go tell the others the good news! *(They exit talking excitedly. JEFF emerges from his hiding place.)*

**JEFF:** So that's what this is all about. They think they're so smart. There's not a girl yet been born to out-smart this boy. *(Snaps his fingers.)* And I've got just the idea that will have them running home to Mama. *(He rubs his hands together and laughs an evil laugh.)*

BLACKOUT.

ACT ONE, SCENE 4

*ELI and JENNY enter arm in arm. ELI looks back behind them.*

**ELI:** I think we lost them. They're all jealous. They can't stand it because you went for me and not them. Now, where was I? Oh, yes, when I was in the fourth grade I won the spelling bee the third year in a row. The word I won with was 'caterpillar'. There's not many people in the world that can spell caterpillar. Then, when I was in the fifth grade . . .

**JENNY:** *(Interrupting.)* Stop!

**ELI:** Huh?

**JENNY:** Uh, we can stop now. Rest awhile.

**ELI:** Okay. You have a seat and rest and I'll keep telling you about my life. *(JENNY rolls her eyes.)* Let's see, where was I? When I was in the fifth grade.

**JENNY:** *(Pulling him down beside her.)* You rest too!

**ELI:** Okay, we have been doing a lot of walking. *(She takes his arm.)*

**JENNY:** Moon is full. Beaut-il-ful moon.

**ELI:** Can I ask you a question? Why would you choose somebody like me to go walking with?

**JENNY:** You so strong. *(Feels for his bicep but she can't find it.)*

**ELI:** Well, yeah. But Jack is stronger.

**JENNY:** You are smart. You bring, how I say, medal de-tec-tor.

**ELI:** That true. *(Stands and turns his back to her. The map is sticking from his back pocket. During the following seconds of dialog JENNY tries to snatch the map. ELI moves just in time. He is dumb to his deceit.)* None of the guys think I'm smart. They're always making fun of me.

**JENNY:** I no understand. Make-fun-of-you?

**ELI:** You know, they don't think I can ever do anything right. Say I'm always lousing things up. But this time the laugh's on them. Take this map for instance. Roger didn't think I was responsible enough to hold on to it but I wanted to prove to him he could trust me.

**JENNY:** *(Almost has it before he turns around.)* That map?

**ELI:** *(Holding it up.)* Treasure map. We follow to treasure chest.

**JENNY:** Jungle Girls see map?

**ELI:** I don't know.

**JENNY:** I very care-ful.

**ELI:** Well.

**JENNY:** *(With head on his shoulder.)* Please? You too smart to lose map. You trust Jungle Girl?

**ELI:** *(Giving in.)* Well, okay, but hold onto it real tight. One puff of wind will take it out to sea.

**JENNY:** (*Unrolls it.*) Ahhh, Jungle Girl like treasure map.

**ELI:** (*Turning his back to her.*) I have to admit I've never felt this way about a girl before. (*As he talks she giggles silently and tiptoes off stage.*) I know you may find this hard to believe, but I haven't dated all that much. And then when you wanted to go walking with me, well I felt we made some kind of magic connection. (*JEFF enters and begins looking around.*) I know you probably don't understand what I'm saying. This is a little embarrassing but I think you're a little special. The question is, can you really know how special you are?

**JEFF:** Yes, and I think you're special too.. The question is, can you really know how special you are?

**ELI:** Yes, and I think you're special too.

**ELI:** (*Eyes grow wide, he turns.*) What do you mean sneaking up on us. Can't you see we're sharing a moment?

**JEFF:** Who?

**ELI:** Jungle Girl and me. Now scat!

**JEFF:** (*Grabs ELI's shoulders.*) Eli, where's the map?

**ELI:** Over there. She's looking at it. Why?

**JEFF:** You imbecile! It was all a fake! A put on

**ELI:** What was?

**JEFF:** The whole native act! She was after our half of the map!

**ELI:** You're just saying that because she wanted to go walking with me and not you.

**JEFF:** Okay, then where is she?

**ELI:** (*Turns to where she was standing.*) I told you she's right over . . . (*Calling out softly.*) Uh, honey? Sweetie? My Jungle Princess? I can't believe it! She wanted me for the map, not my muscles.

**JEFF:** Jack's sister is on the island with a bunch of girls. She's behind the whole scheme. They think the map belongs to her.

**ELI:** The scoundrels! Does Jack know?

**JEFF:** No, and I think we should keep it that way.

**ELI:** What? Why?

**JEFF:** Eli, you know how the guys are always putting us down, telling us we can never do anything right?

**ELI:** Do I ever.

**JEFF:** Now is the chance to show them we CAN do something.

**ELI:** I don't get it.

**JEFF:** But it's got to be you and me. The other guys don't need to know the girls are here. That way we come out the heroes!

**ELI:** (*Catching on.*) Kind of makes me feel like Superman! (*Hands on hips.*)

**JEFF:** Batman! (*Arms folded across chest.*)

**ELI:** Spiderman! (*Wrists pointed out.*) Gosh, I've never felt like a hero before.

**JEFF:** This is your chance and boy do I have a plan.

**ELI:** What is it? (*The Native Man appears unnoticed by the boys. This time he's sharpening a machete.*)

**JEFF:** Girls, get ready, you're about to be out schemed, out smarted, out maneuvered . . .

**ELI:** Proving once and for all, boys are the superior species!

*They rub their hands together and, again, laugh an evil laugh and exit running. The Native Man continues to sharpen his weapon. Distant drums are heard as the lights fade to a slow . . .*

**BLACKOUT. END OF ACT ONE.**

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