

LACAH V

THE

# MIGNONETTE

BLOOD AT SEA



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Synopsis	3.
Witnesses	4.
Special Instructions	5.
Stipulations	8.
Indictment	9.
Case Law	10.
Evidence	13.
Affidavits	14.

# SYNOPSIS

Necessity isn't always an adequate defense against murder, and that was vividly shown in the case of *R v Dudley and Stephens*. In

1884, Tom Dudley, Edwin Stephens, Edmund Brooks, and Richard Parker were shipwrecked and adrift in a lifeboat 700 miles from the nearest land with no freshwater and only two tins of turnips to eat.

This was on the 5th of July. By the 17th of July, they had eaten the turnips and the entirety of a turtle they had managed to catch, and by the 24th of July, Parker had slipped into a coma. Realizing there was no other way to survive, Dudley and Stephens killed Parker, and the three remaining men (including Brooks) resorted to cannibalism. On the 29th of July, they were rescued.

With Dudley and Stephens already found guilty for murder, the court is now trialing the bystander, Edmund Brooks, and whether he is guilty of criminal facilitation and encouraging, whether it be explicit or implicit, the act of murder.

Inspired by *US v. Tiernee*, *State v. Bowman*, *Petrillo v. Martini*, *State v. Lawrence*

# WITNESSES

## PROSECUTION

Available only to the Prosecution

TOM DUDLEY – One of Parker’s killers

BILLIE STEWARD – A nutritionist on the rescue ship

## DEFENSE

Available only to the Defense:

EDMUND BROOKS – The defendant (MANDATORY)

CORY TRAN – A psychologist on the rescue ship

## SWING

Available to both the Prosecution and the Defense:

RICHARD PARKER – The boy who was killed



# SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

1. Witness selection. The prosecution must call Tom Dudley, the Defense must call Edmund Brooks. The remaining witnesses are selected at the captain's meeting before each match. The Prosecution chooses first followed by the Defense.
2. Party representatives. The Prosecution does not have a party representative. The Defense's party representative is the defendant, Edmund Brooks.
3. Fifth Amendment. A witness called by either party may not refuse to answer any question and no attorney may instruct a witness not to respond based on the witness's Fifth Amendment right to avoid self-incrimination.
4. A witness whose affidavit or report states that the witness is familiar with a particular document or exhibit must acknowledge, if asked, that he or she is familiar with that document or exhibit. This does not relieve the party offering the document or exhibit of its obligation to provide sufficient foundation to establish admissibility.
5. Edmund Brooks does not have an affidavit or report. Students playing Brooks may build their testimony using the deposition and other documents in the case. Brooks may also invent facts outside of the case documents but can still be cross-examined on those inventions using the deposition, exhibits, or other case materials. All inventions of fact by Brooks must comply with all LACAH Rules and other special instructions in the case. For example, Brooks may not deny that Brooks gave the answers

given in the deposition after having sworn to tell the truth or deny having done a deed that purport to have been committed by Brooks.

6. The only legal materials that competitors may mention, or judges may rely upon, for any purpose are those set forth in "LACAH Case Law." All participants must acknowledge such if asked.
7. There should be no outside evidence introduced other than the ones that are provided in the case packet.
8. There should be no outside evidence introduced other than the ones that are provided in the case packet.
9. The parties have raised all objections arising under the United States Constitution prior to trial in motions in limine and preserved them for appeal. Accordingly, no party may raise any objections specifically related to the United States Constitution at trial. Any such objections have previously been overruled, and no motion for reconsideration is permitted.
10. Stipulation 5 provides that "[a]ll parties and witnesses are of at least of normal intelligence and none has or ever has had a mental condition that would impact a person's perception, memory, or ability to respond to questions on cross examination." It is a violation of that stipulation and of this special instruction to portray any witness in a manner that renders that witness unable or unwilling to respond to otherwise proper questions on cross examination. This does not mean that the witness has not suffered emotional distress or mental trauma, but rather enforcing that they can and will answer to direct and cross examination.
11. While teams may employ distinctive accents/ speech characteristics to develop a character, teams may not use such accents/speech characteristics to invent material facts or to prove that a voice heard

was or was not the voice of a specific person in the case. This Special Instruction does not prohibit asking a witness questions regarding the witness's certainty of a voice identification or the circumstances in which the witness heard the voice in question. This Special Instruction applies both to examinations of witnesses and to opening statements/closing arguments.

12. All witness roles may be played by a person of their own chosen gender. A team shall not conduct examinations or make arguments that would lead the jury to draw a favorable or adverse inference based on the gender of a witness.
13. When a witness is asked to identify a party in the case, all members of both teams shall turn on their video cameras and allow the witness an opportunity to describe the person they "see" in the room. Additionally, during housekeeping matters at the beginning of the trial, both teams shall clearly and slowly identify all of their team members for both the benefit of the judges and the opposing team, so that the opposing team can be aware of which person is playing each witness/party.
14. Should a team wish to publish part or all of a document by reading it onto the record, the time spent reading shall be deducted from the publishing team's total direct or cross time, depending on whether the reading occurs during the publisher's case-in-chief or that of the other team. Publication may not occur before opening statements or after the defense team closes its case-in-chief.
15. The final power of ruling to any judicial discrepancies or technicalities of law is vested in the LACAH high court.

# STIPULATIONS

1. Both parties fully comply with their discovery obligations. No pertinent information or evidence withheld during discovery.
2. Both parties agree that the charges for Tom Dudley and Edwin Stevens stand as they are found guilty for Murder in the First Degree.
3. The parties reserve the right to dispute any other legal or factual conclusions based on these items and to make objections to these items based on evidentiary issues.
4. The defendant, Edmund Brooks, is tried on two counts: that of murder in the first degree and that of solicitation to commit a crime of violence.
5. All parties and witnesses are of at least normal intelligence and none has ever suffered from a diagnosed mental condition that would impact a person's perception, memory, or ability to respond on direct or cross examination.

# INDICTMENT

STATE OF NEW YORK

v.

EDMUND BROOKS

Defendant.

18 U.S. Code § 2 - Principals

- (a) Whoever commits an offense against the United States is punishable as a principal.
- (b) Whoever knowingly and willfully causes an act to be done which if directly performed by him or another would be an offense against the United States, is punishable as a principal.

THE GRAND JURY CHARGES

## COUNT I

18 U.S. CODE § 1111 - MURDER

- (a) Murder in the first degree is the unlawful killing of a human being with malice aforethought. Every murder perpetrated by poison, lying in wait, or any other kind of willful, deliberate, malicious, and premeditated killing

## COUNT II

18 U.S. CODE § 373 - SOLICITATION TO COMMIT A CRIME OF VIOLENCE

- (a) A person is guilty of solicitation to commit a crime of violence if he (1) asked, (2) requested, (3) encouraged, or (4) persuaded another to commit a felony under circumstances that strongly corroborate that the defendant had the intent that the crime be committed.

Burden of proof: the Prosecution must prove beyond a reasonable doubt that Edmund Brooks is indeed guilty of Murder and/or Solicitation to Commit a Crime of Violence

Date: 2/12/2022

Joshua Zhang - New York District Attorney



# CASE LAW

## *Johnson v. Bird (1993)*

Trial judges must ensure that any scientific testimony or evidence admitted is not only relevant but reliable. In determining reliability, judges should consider only the methods employed and the data relied upon, not the conclusions themselves. The proponent of the evidence has the burden of proving each section of Rule 702 by a preponderance of the evidence.

## *Tarot Readers Association of LACAH v. Merrell Dow (1994)*

In assessing reliability under Rule 702(c), judges should consider whether the theory or technique has been or can be tested, whether it has been subjected to peer review and publication, whether it has a known error rate, and whether it has gained widespread acceptance within the field. These factors, while relevant, are not necessarily dispositive. For example, lack of publication does not automatically foreclose admission; sometimes well-grounded but innovative theories will not have been published. There is no definitive checklist. Judges must make such assessments based on the totality of the circumstances.

## *Harper v. Stockton (2012)*

Pursuant to LACAH Rule of Evidence 104(a), when evaluating the admissibility of evidence, a trial court is permitted to rely on both admissible and inadmissible evidence. The use of underlying inadmissible evidence does not make that inadmissible evidence admissible. Instead, the court is merely permitted to consider the underlying inadmissible evidence in order to assess the

admissibility of the offered evidence. In a jury trial, the jury may not always be privy to the underlying facts used to determine what evidence is admissible, but the court may hear it. Previous upheld examples of this in LACAH include using character evidence to make a ruling on hearsay exceptions, using hearsay to make a ruling on character evidence, and using hearsay to decide whether an expert has adequate foundation to testify.

### ***Bruno Software Co. v. Mars Investigations (1998)***

LACAH does not permit parties to use their experts as weapons in a trial by ambush or unfair surprise. Expert reports that are exchanged prior to trial must contain a complete statement of all opinions the expert will testify to and the basis and reasons for them, the facts or data considered by the expert in forming their opinions, and the expert's qualifications. Experts are strictly prohibited from testifying on direct or redirect examination about any opinions or conclusions not stated in their report, and such testimony must be excluded upon a timely objection from opposing counsel. For example, an expert may not testify on direct or redirect examination that they formed a conclusion based on evidence that came out during trial that the expert did not previously review. However, if an expert is asked during cross-examination about matters not contained in their report, the expert may freely answer the question as long as the answer is responsive.

### ***Neo v. Morpheus (1988)***

Pursuant to LACAH Rule of Evidence 104(a), courts may consider custodial documents, such as clerks' certifications or affidavits of records keepers, when determining the admissibility of other

evidence without regard for the admissibility of the custodial document itself. The custodial document typically only addresses preliminary matters of admissibility and is not entered into evidence, and thus the court is not bound by the rules of evidence when considering it. However, if a party wishes to enter the custodial document itself into evidence, the proper foundation must be laid to establish its admissibility.

### ***Richards v. Mississippi BBQ (1997)***

LACAH Rule of Evidence 703 does not permit experts to testify or present a chart in a manner that simply summarizes inadmissible hearsay without first relating that hearsay to some specialized knowledge on the expert's part. The court must distinguish experts relying on otherwise inadmissible hearsay to form scientific conclusions from conduits who merely repeat what they are told. The testimony of the former is admissible; that of the latter is not. At the same time, statements that would otherwise be admissible are not inadmissible simply because they are offered by or through an expert witness.

# EVIDENCE

Exhibit A. Autopsy Report

Exhibit B. Contract

Exhibit C. Montezuma Log

Exhibit D. Navigation Log

Exhibit E. Textbook

## Exhibit A

RICHARD PARKER  
November 18, 1884

Case No. 1884-00631  
Autopsy No. A05-0220

### REPORT OF AUTOPSY

Autopsy on the body of Richard Parker. Autopsy was performed on July 30th, 1884, on the passenger barque, the Montezuma, registered at Glasgow, by Billie Steward.

### EXTERNAL EXAMINATION

Body is that of a (approximately) 5 ft. 2 in. tall, (approximately) 100 pounds, black haired, brown-eyed male. Estimations were made, due to the deteriorated state of the body, with sections of the body having been dismembered.

The head is normocephalic. The eyes, ears, and nose are normal. Chest and abdomen are flat. The genitalia are normal.

Trauma of the body consists of the severing of his left leg below the knee, his right leg at the ankle, and his arm at the elbow joint. The body was recovered both after rigor mortis and secondary flaccidity, thus leading to the estimation that Parker had been dead for over half a week on the 29th. Witness questioning confirms this proposition. Additional trauma found in the jugular consisted of a knife wound, likely to be the primary cause of death.

Blood tests reveal an abnormal salinity in the blood, most likely due to dehydration from the consumption of seawater. Large volumes of iron are also found in blood, possibly because of consumption of blood. High levels of urea nitrogen concentration in the kidney, could be either due to insufficient water for kidney function or the consumption of urine.



# HAMPSHIRE YACHT COMPANY CONTRACT

This Contract for Services is made effective as of JUNE 13, 1884, by and between the HAMPSHIRE YACHT COMPANY and JACK WANT.

DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES. Beginning on JULY 1, 1884, JACK WANT will provide the following items to be shipped to SYDNEY AUSTRALIA, from the port of SOUTHAMPTON, GREAT BRITAIN.

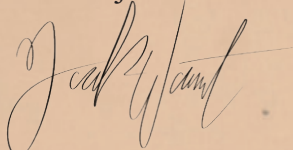
Items	Quantity	Weight
Mignonette Yacht	1	19.43 tons

- Carrier shall promptly and efficiently receive, ship, and deliver safely, within Clients established schedules and without delay, the goods entrusted to it hereunder, whether received from Client or from third parties at the request of Client, Consignment Carrier shall reimburse Client for the delay
- Consignee shall be present at the time of delivery of the goods delivered under this Agreement.

PAYMENT. Payment shall be made to the individuals EDWIN STEPHENS, TOM DUDLEY, and EDMUND BROOKS, in the amount of \$2000.00, to be split equally among all individuals upon completion of the shipping services described in this contract.

If any invoice is not paid when due, interest will be added and payable on all overdue amounts at 20 percent per year, or the maximum percentage allowed under applicable laws.

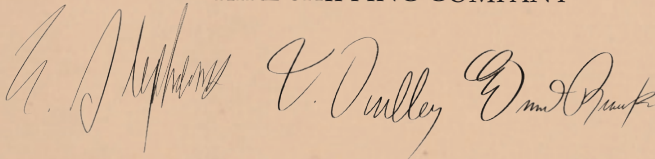
CLIENT: JACK WANT



Date: 13 JUNE 1884

VOID

CARRIER: HAMPSHIRE SHIPPING COMPANY



Date: 13 JUNE 1884

64

*Montezuma Day by Day. Reporting Log  
records registered by Whit Bowman, Certified Navigator, on  
behalf of the Colonial Office*

<i>Date</i>	<i>Weather Conditions</i>	<i>Onboard Events</i>
<i>7/20</i>	<i>Grey skies, low wind</i>	<i>Rail on left side of boat cracked, need repairment when back to coast</i>
<i>7/21</i>	<i>No rain, much windier. Expect heavy storm in the following days</i>	
<i>7/22</i>	<i>Heavy storm, extremely cold</i>	<i>Water leaking into room 3, patchwork needed to fix. Two crewmembers fell ill due to low temperature.</i>
<i>7/23</i>	<i>Very strong wind, rocky water, lighter rain</i>	<i>Ship shifts off course, unintentionally about 30 nautical miles off course</i>
<i>7/24</i>	<i>Strong wind, storm to stop in next few days</i>	<i>Need to get back on course, now 40 nautical miles off course</i>
<i>7/25</i>	<i>Strong wind, cold temperature</i>	<i>Three crewmates now sick due to cold temperature, 45 nautical miles off course</i>
<i>7/26</i>	<i>Mild wind, rising temperature</i>	<i>Ship calculations made to return to original course</i>
<i>7/27</i>	<i>Light rain, mild wind</i>	<i>Ship adjustments made, now closer to original course</i>
<i>7/28</i>	<i>High wind, extremely cold</i>	
<i>7/29</i>	<i>Extremely cold, high wind</i>	<i>Picked up stranded crew of the Mignonette. One murdered by two of the crewmates. Psychologist and Nutritionist on board interviewed all survivors</i>



## LOG: to St. Helena (15.965)

DATE	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	DISTANCE TO St. Helena
July 5	27.404°S	3.45°E	700 nmi
July 9	25.523°S	4.241°W	580 nmi
July 13	24.78°S	4.723°W	532 nmi
July 17	23.15°S	6.817°W	436.2 nmi
July 21	22.15°S	<del>5.887°W</del> 9.336°W	430.2 nmi
July 25	20.5°S	9.637°W	<del>359.5</del> 403 nmi
July 29	21.62°S	8.914°W	30 nmi



## CHAPTER III.

### *ADVICE FOR MAROONED OR SHIPWRECKED SAILORS ON HYDRATION*

For the sailor who may find himself marooned or shipwrecked after an unfortunate accident upon the high seas, a few points of advice and guidelines for hydration:

- I. **Regarding Seawater:** It is of high consequence that no sailor ever should drink seawater. Besides the obvious bacterial dangers of seawater, it is the case that seawater, rather than hydrating, in fact dehydrates. This is because the body must maintain a certain level of salt content, and thus will urinate out excessive salt. The kidney can only produce urine of 2% salinity; however, seawater is generally around 3% saline. As such, if one hypothetically drank 2 litres of seawater, one would have to urinate out 3 litres, thus losing an entire litre of water in the process.
- II. **Regarding Urine:** It may be advisable in some cases that a sailor may drink their own urine, but only in the case of life-threatening dehydration. However, this is only the case for life-threatening dehydration. Drinking urine for regular periods of time will lead to a buildup of toxins within the body, which may lead to sickness, such as fever.
- III. **Regarding Blood:** Blood, in general, is also inadvisable for consumption, for reasons similar to that of seawater. However, turtle's and snake's blood is acceptable for consumption, although also not healthy. Turtle and snake blood is relatively low in salts and proteins, which will reduce the necessary amount of urine to remove excess salt and protein. On the other hand, it is not advisable for a sailor to drink fish's blood, which will cause one to urinate out more water than they consume from fish's blood. However, regardless of whichever sort of blood a man consumes, it will result in a buildup of iron within the body, which will lead to haemochromatosis, symptoms of which consist of fatigue, reduced attention, weakness, and impotence. Although it may be the case that the last symptom is of little concern when marooned.

Overall, it is the case that one of the first directives that a marooned sailor ought to undertake is to secure a source of freshwater. It is entirely possible that a healthy, grown man may survive up to a month without the consumption of food, but much less likely that a person will survive long without freshwater. And none of the options alternative to good freshwater are long term solutions.



# AFFIDAVITS

Tom Dudley (Prosecution Witness)

Billie Steward (Prosecution Witness)

Edmund Brooks (Defense Witness)

Cory Tran (Defense Witness)

Richard Parker (Swing Witness)



# AFFIDAVIT OF TOM DUDLEY

## PROSECUTION WITNESS AFFIDAVIT

1           After being duly sworn upon oath, Tom Dudley hereby states as follows: I  
2 am over 18 and competent to make this affidavit. I am testifying voluntarily and  
3 was not subpoenaed or compelled to testify.

4           My name is Tom Dudley, born 1853. 31 years old since just a few months  
5 ago. I've been a mariner my whole life, ever since my father brought me along on  
6 his old fishing trawler back when I was just 14 years of age. But working for the  
7 high class is much more profitable, and I've been serving to transport yachts round  
8 the world for rich folks since '77, working under the Hampshire Yacht Company.  
9 I did some training with the company, as well, and got myself a certification of  
10 competency - the company needed it for some insurance reasons or whatever.  
11 Anyhow, Jack Want, I believe, was the name of my employer that time round. That  
12 time round, along with the yacht, we were bringing some knick-knacks too from  
13 England - Mr. Want's dad had died a few months ago and there was some jewelry  
14 that Mr. Want wanted us to bring him.

15           I was working with three others on that ship, The Mignonette. I was captain  
16 this time round - the yacht wasn't too important fare, since it was one of the  
17 cheaper varieties. There was Edwin Stephens and Edmund Brooks, both older than  
18 me in age but my juniors at the company, along with a Richard Parker, a young  
19 boy of just 17. Brooks was the navigator, although I knew a bit about navigation as  
20 well, though I was not certified at the time; I had lost my certification after I ran a  
21 ship aground as the navigator. This trip was a bit of a training excursion as well -  
22 we were meant to be showing young Richard the ropes.

23           Things were smooth sailing all the way until the 5 of July. That night, in  
24 the middle of the Atlantic, a wave blew a part of the bulwark right away. I knew  
25 immediately that the ship was doomed, and I shouted the rest of the crew awake.  
26 Told them to begin lowering the lifeboat immediately, and we scrambled to get

27 provisions and navigation materials off the boat. But the yacht was sinking fast - it  
28 took only around 5 minutes for it to dip below the water, and we ended up with  
29 only the navigation instruments and 2 measly cans of turnips. Things were not  
30 looking up for us.

31 But that's not to say that there wasn't hope - plenty. We were quite near some  
32 of the most traveled commercial passageways in the Atlantic. Although we were  
33 seven hundred nautical miles from the nearest land - Saint Helena, it was entirely  
34 possible that trade winds could push us into the middle of these commercial  
35 passageways, where it was very likely that we would be found.

36 That week, the weather was quite foggy, with clouds constantly obscuring  
37 the sky - bad weather for navigation. But I had faith in Brooks. He was a good  
38 navigator, and not too prone to make mistakes. He was telling me the whole  
39 time that we were around seven hundred nautical miles out, farther than most  
40 commercial vessels would travel, which was grim, very grim, for our situation.  
41 And it remained this way for over a week, despite my persistent inquiries, with  
42 increasing urgency and desperation. But, I never thought to check the instruments  
43 myself.

44 It was within this context that I myself began to contemplate sacrificing  
45 one of our crew members to insure the lives of the rest of us. But, these were just  
46 some thoughts in my mind, and it is certainly not the case that I was seriously  
47 considering cannibalism at this point in time. Although we had caught a turtle on  
48 the 9th, its blood and flesh only lasted until the 13th. And we had begun to drink  
49 our own pee as well, which became increasingly unpleasant and acrid to drink.

50 It was the night of the 20th, I believe, that I awoke from a groggy, and  
51 slightly feverish slumber to the sight of my three crewmates drinking seawater.  
52 This was a huge error that every mariner should have none, and the company  
53 itself taught: seawater will not hydrate you; on the contrary, it will only serve to  
54 dehydrate you. I remember rubbing my eyes to hear Brook's exclaim that he was  
55 "done with drinking piss, damnit!" and that "it couldn't hurt to take a swig of  
56 seawater, would it now?" I hadn't fully realized what he meant by this, as one is

57 prone to do when they are still half asleep. But I do remember Parker, upon seeing  
58 a can of shimmering water, grabbed the tin from Brooks and took a large swig.  
59 Which was strange - how could a grown man, strong as Brooks was, have a tin  
60 wrestled from him by a mere boy, and even feverish at that! I at once was startled  
61 awake and sought to stop Parker, but at that point the entire tin had already found  
62 its way into his stomach. And throughout that entire ordeal, Brooks did not take a  
63 drink for himself.

64 Parker was never in as good shape as the rest of us: the boy was quite thin  
65 and a bit sickly. Not hearty mariner material, I must say. And the seawater certainly  
66 did not do him any good, collapsing the next night into a dehydrated fever. Parker  
67 probably would not have lasted for anymore than a few days after that point.

68 It was actually on the 16th that we first discussed drawing lots to decide  
69 a person to sacrifice. But, at this point, there was no need to draw lots anymore.  
70 Parker was clearly not going to survive, and was the obvious candidate to be, well,  
71 eaten. I raised this issue on the 21st, proposing that we should consume Parker's  
72 flesh. Stephen was resolutely against it, at that time, but Brooks, well, he was just  
73 silent. Seemed to be brooding over something.

74 Brooks was always a sort of cautious man. He'd always had a reputation  
75 of trying to hide his wrongs, and how he'd shift blame to his crewmates when  
76 something went wrong. But despite these rumors, I had always thought of Brooks  
77 as a trustworthy man, who was just a bit quiet sometimes. But I must say, Brooks  
78 was the only one, throughout this entire debate, who never spoke in favor, or in  
79 opposition of the idea of eating Parker. Almost as if he wanted us to kill Parker, but  
80 didn't want to say it himself. And he'd always tell us about how little food we had  
81 left, or how hungry he was, or ruminate on the sumptuous feasts he'd enjoy when  
82 we got back to England. For sure, it made me panic a bit myself. Finally, I asked  
83 Brooks how far we were from the coast. "Four hundred nautical miles".

84 Well, we went ahead and killed Parker, night of the 25th. And we had to  
85 kill him - otherwise the blood in his body would have gone bad. We'd agreed that  
86 Stephens would hold the boy down while I went ahead and stabbed his jugular,

87 but Parker was struggling an awful lot. I urged Brooks to give Stephen a hand,  
88 but well, he just stood there. Took a while, but in the end, Stephen managed to pin  
89 Parker down. I gave a quick prayer, and then, in my penknife went, straight into his  
90 neck.

91 We drank Parker's blood first, since all of us were awfully parched. Well,  
92 Brooks and I drank at first - Stephen had to have a bout of vomiting first, but he  
93 soon joined in. I'll admit, I ate with a surprising, or perhaps ashaming, amount of  
94 gumption, but Brooks, well, he seemed unfazed by the murder just as much as I  
95 did. Which, for a man who seemed so hesitant about killing, was awfully strange.  
96 But we were all quite hungry at the time, and I didn't judge the man.

97 We were picked up on the 29th of July, by the Montezuma. Some  
98 psychologist asked me some questions, but at the time I was much too tired to  
99 remember them properly now, and I went to sleep at once. After I woke up, on an  
100 off hand note, I asked the captain of that vessel what our position was. Imagine my  
101 surprise when I discovered that we were not four hundred nautical miles from the  
102 island, but only a hundred! This difference was of the utmost significance - many  
103 commercial vessels would travel around a hundred miles from Saint Helena, but  
104 four hundred was much less likely. Immediately I was struck by guilt. At first, I  
105 had justified my decision to kill Parker by arguing that we could not have possibly  
106 known that a vessel would come so soon, but a hundred nautical miles. This was  
107 simply too close to the island, and on one of the most busy sea lanes in the world!  
108 And Brooks was a talented navigator. I simply could not comprehend how he made  
109 such a drastic mistake.

110 At once, I scrambled to grab Brooks's navigation records. Running my finger  
111 down his calculations, I found at once that he had made some key, and rather basic,  
112 navigational errors, the kind which only a child could make. I mean, he had failed  
113 to successfully apply the Pythagorean Theorem, for one! And furthermore, he had  
114 multiple entries scribbled out, which simply isn't done. Navigators are taught to  
115 ensure the cleanliness and accuracy of records, for ease of the viewer's reading.  
116 But Brooks's records are filled with these corrections. Simply put, the quantity

117 and, well, the absurdity of Brooks's mistakes made it simply implausible - he  
118 must have intentionally made these "mistakes". Thinking back to it now, the only  
119 possible reason why Brooks would have made these mistakes, and lied to me about  
120 the distance from the shore would have been to compel me to kill Parker. And he  
121 must have scribbled out entries, perhaps due to hesitation, or perhaps to ensure the  
122 plausibility of his "records".

123         Now, I am a man with morals. Should I have found that we were just a  
124 hundred nautical miles from Saint Helena, I would have starved to sickness for  
125 the chance of rescue, rather than slaughter a poor boy. But Brooks, well, he was a  
126 cautious man. Everyone knew him as a cautious man. Perhaps Brooks would have  
127 not taken that chance. And Brooks knew that I would have never agreed to kill  
128 Parker if we were just a hundred miles out to sea. I even spoke about it to him, at  
129 the very beginning of our long period on the lifeboat.

130         When I returned to England, I was greatly surprised to face charges of  
131 murder. Now, I maintain that this is a false charge - it should be covered under a  
132 custom of the sea! But in any case, there I was, in the courthouse, facing down  
133 a judge and a jury. But, imagine my surprise, when I found Brooks, not accused  
134 as Stephen and I were, but a witness, one against us! I felt betrayed - a man who  
135 feasted on Parker's flesh more fervently than the both of us, now seeking to  
136 hypocritically put us in prison!

137         After I was found guilty and sentenced to six months in prison, soon  
138 enough, the parole officer came to me and asked for my cooperation. He wanted  
139 me to testify, once again, about the events of that long month of the lifeboat, but  
140 against Brooks! I agreed at once. After all, I've got a wife and children who need  
141 my income to live, and a mortgage to pay off. Each month that I am in prison, our  
142 family loses money, a part of our livelihood. So I simply cannot afford to rot in  
143 prison.

144         Of the exhibits within this case, I am familiar with the Certificate of  
145 Competency Textbook, which I read as part of getting certified, the Navigation  
146 Logs, which I saw after rescued by the Montezuma, and the



147 I hereby attest to having read the above statement and swear or affirm it  
148 to be my own and consistent with the testimony provided during my grand jury  
149 testimony. I also swear or affirm to the truthfulness of its content. Before giving  
150 this statement, I was told to include everything I knew that could be relevant to  
151 the events described related to these charges. I also understand that I can and must  
152 update this affidavit if anything new occurs to me until the date of the trial in this  
153 case. I have also read and am familiar with the statements I provided to police  
154 officers and law enforcement officers related to these events and confirm that all  
155 documents showing my signature reflect my genuine signature.

Signed: 

Subscribed and sworn to me on this 13th day of February 1885:

Cory Fan  
Public Notary



# AFFIDAVIT OF BILLIE STEWARD

## PROSECUTION WITNESS AFFIDAVIT

1           After being duly sworn upon oath, Billie Steward hereby states as follows:  
2 I am over 18 and competent to make this affidavit. I am testifying voluntarily and  
3 was not subpoenaed or compelled to testify.

4           My name is Billie Steward, 29 years old. I was born in a little seaside  
5 village in Dorset. While my parents ran a small bait shop as their day job, I learned  
6 studiously at our local school. Although I lived in a small village, I always had big  
7 dreams - dreams of getting out of my quiet, drab village. I graduated top of my  
8 class and went to college at the University of London. Fun fact - the University of  
9 London was the first college in England to permit women to attend, just around  
10 six years ago. While I was attending classes in college, I saw a posting in the  
11 newspaper for classes in a police academy, and out of interest, I decided to join as  
12 well. Since 1881, I've both received my bachelor's for Biology and a certification  
13 for forensic Biology.

14           I'm currently a nutritionist at the moment, but I've worked as a forensic  
15 biologist before as well. I've got a degree in Biology from Canterbury, but moved  
16 shortly after that to the police academy. Not the conventional police academy, of  
17 course - I don't fancy brawling with street thugs over stolen goods. No, I applied  
18 science to solve the grand mysteries of crime. For a while at least. Autopsies and  
19 investigations are fun and all that, but it just got a bit boring for a while. You'd  
20 think that being a forensic biologist would be interesting - solving poisoning cases,  
21 and all that - but you're mostly there to check boxes and fill out paperwork. Never  
22 really worked on many autopsies either; I did a few, but since I was a junior in the  
23 department, I was mostly just watching the more experienced doctors doing them.  
24 But I know plenty about autopsies.

25           After around two years, I decided to quit, and get some more experience  
26 in some other fields. Since then, I've worked as a nutritionist for the Ceylon's

Mariner's Association. Got a recommendation from my friend, who was working in the Ceylon Mariners' Association, and I hopped on a boat to India. Always had a place in my heart for those who worked on the sea. Now, the folks in Ceylon are doing some supply reorganization there, changing up the military supply chains to utilize more local ingredients to reduce the costs of production, and put out a temporary posting for nutritionists. I'm one of around six nutritionists there, and it was real interesting work. Not only was it very hands-on work, but well, Ceylon was a very exotic place, to say the least. I've got a load of stories that would be great for the pub, but I don't suppose they'd be too relevant to the case at hand.

I was actually traveling home on the Montezuma from Ceylon on the 29th of July. I was taking a quick breather on the deck of the boat when I heard shouting, and a few sailors ran inside to notify the captain of something. As I searched the horizon, I found what they were shouting about. A lifeboat.

Three people and a dead body were pulled up from that lifeboat that day. Right away, by force of habit, I suppose, I noticed a few things. Brooks and Dudley looked quite healthy, well, as healthy as one can be after being stranded on a lifeboat for several weeks. But Stephens was in pretty bad shape, looked like he hadn't eaten for days. I mean, at least he wasn't a dead body – Parker was missing parts of both his legs and half his arm.

Despite the gravity of the case, the captain decided that we were not going to head to a port for a proper investigation into the matter. Something about important personnel on board. In any case, one of these important personnel, a judge named William Rogers, saw that I had some experience in the matter, and told me to go ahead and prepare a preliminary investigation, and that he would deal with the authorization and legal matters. Certainly, our barque was not the best place to conduct an autopsy or any other investigation, and I didn't have all the necessary tools, but I went ahead and made do with what I had.

Although I wasn't able to conduct a complete autopsy, and Parker's body had been decomposing, I still managed to discern a few facts. Firstly, Parker had clearly drunk seawater - the salinity in his blood was abnormally high, even for



1 Examination Under Oath of Edmund Z. Brooks

2  
3 The deponent herein, after having been first duly sworn, testified as  
4 follows:

5  
6 Q: Please state your name, and spell it for the record.

7  
8 A: Edmund Brooks. E-D-M-U-N-D. B-R-O-O-K-S.

9  
10 Q: Are you currently taking any medication?

11  
12 A: No.

13  
14 Q: Do you understand that anything you say here may be used against  
15 you in a court of law?

16  
17 A: Yes, I do.

18  
19 Q: Do you understand your fifth amendment rights to remain silent?

20  
21 A: Yes, and I chose to waive them, I have nothing to hide today.

22  
23 Q: Are you in any way coerced, forced, or here to make this deposition  
24 against your own will?

25  
26 A: No

27  
28 Q: Is there any reason you cannot give a truthful testimony today?

29  
30 A: No.

31  
32 Q: Great, Mr. Brooks, I'll try to make this quick for you. Do you mind  
33 if I call you Edmund?

34  
35 A: Yes, that's fine.

36  
37 Q: Edmund, what do you do for a living?

38  
39 A: I worked as a navigator for the "Hampshire Yacht Company." Took  
40 me a bloody long time to become a navigator. I took numerous classes  
41 on the subject and had to take a test on this long book called the  
42 "Navigator's Competency Textbook." The last time I worked, I was  
43 delivering a yacht called the Mignonette.

44  
45 Q: And who were your crewmates?  
46

47 A: Three other people. Tom Dudley, Edwin Stephens, and a kid named  
48 Richard Parker.  
49  
50 Q: Can you describe your relationship with Parker?  
51  
52 A: Of course. To be honest, we really didn't like each other.  
53 Originally, our crew was set to be manned by 3 people, Stephens,  
54 Dudley, and I. We were paid about 2000 USD. This would be split 3 ways  
55 between us all. Apparently, the ownership thought that we were not  
56 competent with just the three of us and decided to add a fourth member  
57 to our crew. Instead of the money being split three ways, I was now  
58 only making a quarter of the funds.  
59  
60 Q: Would you say you hate Parker?  
61  
62 A: No I wouldn't say that. Of course there was a bit of bad blood  
63 at the beginning of our trip, however I came to terms with the  
64 circumstances soon after departure.  
65  
66 Q: Were you on the Mignonette on July 5, 1884?  
67  
68 A: Unfortunately, I was.  
69  
70 Q: What happened that night?  
71  
72 A: Well, it started as pretty smooth sailing until a wave blew off  
73 part of the bulwark of the ship. Whole thing started shaking like  
74 crazy. Dudley, my crewmate, woke us all up and yelled at us saying  
75 "Wake up! The boat is going down!"  
76  
77 Q: Were you and your crewmates able to get onto a lifeboat?  
78  
79 A: Yes, all of us made it onto a lifeboat in time.  
80  
81 Q: Were you able to obtain any supplies before escaping?  
82  
83 A: Barely, the ship was underwater within 5 minutes. We managed to  
84 grab some basic navigation equipment, maybe two cans of turnips.  
85 Measly. Little. Turnips. Things didn't look great, I'm not going to  
86 lie. Seven hundred nautical miles from Saint Helena, the nearest  
87 land, we prayed that the wind would push us into some trade ships to  
88 save us. As the only certified navigator on board, I told everyone our  
89 chances were grim.  
90  
91 Q: How long did your food last?  
92  
93 A: Two days into our unexpected detour, we were out of food. As our  
94 first time stranded at sea, we didn't set a hard limit on how much food  
95 we could eat in a day. Parker himself ate half our turnips alone. None  
96 of us thought to bring any water at all.  
97  
98 Q: What was the morale of your boat like?  
99

100 A: Y'know none of us were really friends, just co-workers and  
101 crewmates. We all just wanted our paycheck. Of course Parker and I  
102 would have our occasional friendly talks about this and that, but I  
103 wouldn't really consider any of us close. This didn't really help when  
104 all we had was each other to talk to without food or water. The only  
105 time I ever remember us happy on that little boat was when we were  
106 able to catch a turtle out of the water about nine days after we were  
107 stranded. We made sure to make that one last, eating the flesh and  
108 drinking its blood until it inevitably ran out about four days later.  
109  
110 Q: Did you have access to any drinking water while stranded?  
111  
112 A: Water? No. We had to resort to drinking our own urine.  
113  
114 Q: Did you drink any seawater?  
115  
116 A: I'm not stupid. Everyone knows that seawater won't hydrate you,  
117 in fact, it'll make you more dehydrated. I'm not going to lie, I did  
118 think about it though. It wasn't uncommon for me to fantasize about  
119 food, a good plate of chicken and potatoes, a glass of wine? On the  
120 night of the 20th, I filled up the old turnip can to just see a cup of  
121 water in front of me just to look at. I don't remember it very well to  
122 be honest. All I remember was staring at that glorious can of seawater  
123 just for Parker to wrestle it out of my hands.  
124  
125 Q: Did you warn Parker not to drink the seawater?  
126  
127 A: I don't think so, but to be honest I was a bit out of it. Everyone  
128 was pretty delusional after days without food and water.  
129  
130 Q: Did Parker drink the seawater?  
131  
132 A: I don't know what he was thinking. He might've been more delusional  
133 than me because he actually chugged the damn thing. Parker was never  
134 in great shape, kind of looks like the kind of person to be more into  
135 writing journals than playing sports. Because of this, we rationed the  
136 turtle meat from before accordingly, with Dudley, Stephens, and me  
137 getting more of it than him. After drinking the water, a day or two  
138 later, Parker collapsed into a fever.  
139  
140 Q: Did Parker get any better?  
141  
142 A: Poor boy couldn't say a single word to us afterwards. He ended up  
143 laying there, just shivering with the occasional scream. Eventually,  
144 Dudley proposed that we should commit cannibalism and eat him. His  
145 reasoning was that "he's in the worst shape anyways, better him dying  
146 than me." Stephens and I were against it, he was adamant on not  
147 killing the poor kid.  
148  
149 Q: Can you describe Dudley's condition during his proposal?  
150  
151 A: He sounded... angry. His eyes lacked the happiness and cheerful  
nature that I had seen in the past and instead I saw someone I frankly



152 couldn't recognize. It was his eyes. He looked angry and quite scary.  
153 We all had been without food for quite a while at this point and I  
154 believe that the lack of it was getting to his head.  
155  
156 Q: Did you speak out against Dudley's proposal?  
157  
158 A: To be honest I didn't. I was tired and exhausted. My mouth was too  
159 dry to mutter more than a couple words at a time. I figured Stephens  
160 was enough to shut Dudley up, and I didn't really want to make enemies  
161 with the man who wanted to commit cannibalism. Eventually, hunger  
162 probably got the best of Stephens, who held poor Parker down while  
163 Dudley brutally killed him.  
164  
165 Q: Brutally? What specifically happened?  
166  
167 A: To be frank, I was extremely dizzy at the time. My head was all  
168 over the place and I couldn't think straight. But, I remember Stephens  
169 grabbing Parker and holding him down while Dudley brutally stabbed the  
170 boy with a knife. This wasn't a mercy kill, but he did much more than  
171 he had to. I think that the poor boy was stabbed long after he passed.  
172  
173 Q: Why was Dudley so violent in the killing?  
174  
175 A: I wouldn't be able to know for sure, but I saw the same angry eyes  
176 I saw earlier. While he was impaling the malnourished boy in the neck,  
177 he seemed weirdly happy. His eyes were still filled with hatred and  
178 evil, however he was smiling. I'm no psychologist, but we were all a  
179 bit delirious from the lack of food and water. The ice cold heavy rain  
180 and wind was almost too much to handle. Personally, I almost threw  
181 myself off the lifeboat due to the feeling of nausea and sickness I  
182 had.  
183  
184 Q: Did you help them kill Parker?  
185  
186 A: I did nothing of the sort. I wish I had stopped them, but I didn't  
187 say anything. Kind of scary to stand up to two people with plans to  
188 murder someone. I just sat there, in shock as I saw my crewmate lose  
189 his life 2 feet away from me.  
190  
191 Q: What happened next?  
192  
193 A: We drank Parker's blood first. I wasn't in the position to be  
194 the only one who didn't. I thought that if I didn't, I would be  
195 the weakest out of us three and would meet the same fate as Parker.  
196 Instinct kicked in. I wasn't going to be the person who was going to  
197 be killed next.  
198  
199 Q: Was killing Parker the right decision to make?  
200  
201 A: In hindsight, no. We were picked up on the 29th of July by the  
202 Montezuma. The feeling of guilt hit my stomach. I'm no expert but I  
203 can't help but think about if Parker would've made it if Dudley and  
204 Stephens didn't murder the poor boy. Even though I didn't help, his

205 death will always be on my conscience.  
206  
207 Q: Were you able to anticipate how close you were to potential ships?  
208  
209 A: All I had with me was basic navigation equipment. A compass  
210 that was extremely rusty after weeks at sea, a pen, and a journal.  
211 According to my calculations, we were 400 nautical miles from the  
212 nearest coast. I don't know what went wrong with my calculations,  
213 but after talking with the navigator of the Montezuma and using  
214 their equipment while reading over their travel logs, we were only  
215 100 nautical miles away from the coast when we were picked up by the  
216 Montezuma. The compass might've broken, or I might've miscalculated as  
217 I wasn't able to think very clearly towards the end of our journey.  
218  
219 Q: Once off the lifeboat and onto the ship, what happened?  
220  
221 A: Well, I was interviewed and studied by a psychologist and a  
222 nutritionist on board. Had a few conversations about what happened,  
223 but once we were back to port, Stephens and Dudley were charged with  
224 murder.  
225  
226 Q: What did the nutritionist ask you?  
227  
228 A: The nutritionist, think their name was Billie Steward, tried to  
229 cozy up to me for a while. Told a lot of interesting stories too,  
230 stuff about elephants in Ceylon. But Steward also asked me a question  
231 about whether or not Parker drank seawater. I admit, I reacted a bit  
232 defensively, but I just still felt a bit guilty about Parker drinking  
233 that can of seawater. It was really stupid of me.  
234  
235 Q: Thanks Edmund, that's it for today.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Edmund Parker', written in black ink.

Subscribed and sworn to me on this 13th day of September 1885:

Alex Tran

Public Notary



# AFFIDAVIT OF CORY TRAN

## DEFENSE WITNESS AFFIDAVIT

1           After being duly sworn upon oath, Cory Tran hereby states as follows: I am  
2 over 18 and competent to make this affidavit. I am testifying voluntarily and was  
3 not subpoenaed or compelled to testify.

4           My name is Cory Tran. I was born in Lacville, Chanton but moved to New  
5 York when I was 14. That was partly due to my parents' particularly unsuccessful  
6 marriage. Some of the most horrifying memories I have from my father Joshua and  
7 mother Alexia are their constant quarrels at night. My childhood, as far as I could  
8 remember, was filled with this and I eventually moved with my mother to New  
9 York after a prolonged divorce. I always hated myself for not doing something, but  
10 I completely relate to those who just stood there and did nothing watching tragedy  
11 occur - it really takes a lot of courage to do. Ever since then, I would always try  
12 my best to help those innocent accused of bystander, because I understand their  
13 struggle.

14           As such, in my twenties, I worked closely with the courts as a sort of  
15 psychologist, in order to assess the mental conditions of defendants. I got my  
16 education at New York University, which was only twenty-five years old when  
17 I was a freshman, in the field of philosophy. At the time, psychology was not an  
18 established science yet; in fact, most writings regarding psychology came from  
19 philosophers. While I was studying, I landed myself an internship at the New York  
20 State Defenders Association working on mental health advocacy. Of course, I  
21 never testified as an expert witness, but I was very involved in helping to write case  
22 briefings for cases with mental health as a central focus. It was at that time where  
23 I truly became enamored with criminal psychology, digging into the underlying  
24 psyche of the accused.

25           After I graduated, I did graduate studies and worked as a research assistant at  
26 Columbia University, with a focus on criminal psychology. At the time, Darwinism

was – and still is – very popular, and many philosophers and psychologists applied its concepts to criminal psychology. They claimed that criminals were biologically atavistic and primitive and that being a criminal is a natural trait. I’ve never subscribed to this theory. During my time working with and talking with criminals, I’ve found them to be quite cogent and even kind on occasion, even if lacking in whatever arbitrary standards assigned to sophistication. Certainly, it’s the case even today that criminal psychology is an emerging field, and conclusions drawn are often not very empirical, especially in the field of emotional analysis. I’ve never utilized emotional analysis in expert testimony in court before. Well, diagnosis of mental conditions, at least, is more reliable.

After I received my Ph.D in Philosophy, I decided to head out and experience the world. Europe has always been the center of scholarship in psychology, so I decided to head to London and conduct research there. I took up a job as a postdoctoral research associate in King’s College, writing papers and conducting research on the more general field of psychology, and eventually I worked my way up into becoming a lecturer. But I always tried to stay connected with law and justice, and I’ve done some forensic work and acted as an expert witness in multiple trials in the past.

I was on the Montezuma, on the 29th of July, after conducting some official business for the Colonial Office. They had gathered a team to evaluate the robustness of the legal system in British India. Although the crown had assumed control of the colony for around twenty-five years at that point, the administration of an entire subcontinent is challenging, to say the least. In any case, it was on the 29th of July that the survivors of the shipwreck of the Mignonette were recovered.

The case of the Mignonette was at once of great interest to all of us on that ship. A number of them were legal professionals – attorneys, judges, prosecutors, the like. Apparently, it was one of those classic cases of cannibalism of shipwrecked folk. Certainly, it made what was originally quite the dull ride into a much more enjoyable experience. After all, each of those men had investigated and experienced the most insane of men – a little bit of cannibalism wasn’t going

57 to stop them from enjoying their afternoon tea. In fact, one of the prosecutors got  
58 into an argument with an attorney about how the case would go – even made a bet  
59 over three pounds. Granted, most of us were shot up with a bit of alcohol, although  
60 I personally only had a few sips of ale.

61 At the time, all the constables were still in India, so none of us were certified  
62 for a proper interrogation, but the Honorable Judge Rogers told me that I should go  
63 ahead and conduct a brief inquiry into the mental states of the participants, which I  
64 was most agreeable to. I had previously written a paper on how extreme conditions  
65 drove men to drastic means, such as cannibalism, but I had never been able to  
66 conduct an original investigation on my own.

67 Visually, all three of the surviving crew members were clearly suffering  
68 from a great deal of stress and very little sleep. Additionally, their clothes were  
69 also visibly damp and they were shivering. After they got some rest, I went ahead  
70 and talked to Dudley. He was clearly distressed, but also very frank about what  
71 happened. He said that he believed he would not be charged, and that he had only  
72 done what had to be done, with the permission of everyone on board. He also  
73 told me that although Stephen had not eaten much, both he and Brooks had eaten  
74 without much hesitation. Strangely enough, after Dudley talked to the Captain, he  
75 became clearly distressed, running back to the cabins with his mouth quivering and  
76 pupils dilated.

77 Stephens was clearly the most stressed of the three. When I brought up the  
78 matter of the cannibalism, he almost shuddered, taking me aback after Dudley's  
79 relative calmness. He began rambling, saying that he "wanted nothing to do with  
80 it" and that "everyone agreed". When I asked him whether Brooks had explicitly  
81 agreed to it, he almost shouted that "if you don't say 'no' when someone asks you  
82 about murder, it means that you're too scared to say 'yes'". Professionally, I do  
83 disagree with that statement - saying nothing can have many meanings.

84 Brooks did seem very sick. Many times he launched into a rough fit of  
85 coughing, and he seemed a bit feverish, rambling on and off. He told me that he  
86 had been sick ever since the 20th, and that it had been cold and raining on and

87 off for over the past week. My experience on the Montezuma was quite similar –  
88 the rainfall in the preceding week was very significant. But at the very least, he  
89 was cogent and told his experience with the events on the boat, although he was  
90 hesitant while doing so.

91 Of the three, perhaps only Dudley was fully lucid. Stephens was clearly  
92 suffering from a great degree of shock from the death of Parker and the subsequent  
93 cannibalism. And it does not take a psychologist to tell you that being ill impairs  
94 one's mental capabilities.

95 But beyond simply being ill, Brooks, to me, seemed a generally  
96 compassionate and caring man as well. When we spoke, his body language was  
97 open, with his hands on the table. He was not defensive, and he spoke rather  
98 neutrally and calmly. You might not believe it, but more extreme and negative  
99 emotions, such as sadness or anger, tend to correspond more to deceptive regret  
100 than genuine regret. Rather, it is in the nature of the truly regretful to confidently  
101 and calmly express this regret, instead of in the manner of a stage play actor. In  
102 this manner, Brooks has thoroughly convinced me that he is genuinely regretful for  
103 what happened, but that he feels confident in his own morality.

104 Brooks may have not explicitly rejected the notion of killing Parker, that  
105 is true. But I feel that it is unjust to accuse Brooks of being implicitly in support  
106 of the murder. From my observation of Brooks's guilt, Brooks's regret, Brooks's  
107 words, I have come to believe that rather than any implicit consent, Brooks's regret  
108 was simply that: regret.

109 I hereby attest to having read the above statement and swear or affirm it  
110 to be my own and consistent with the testimony provided during my grand jury  
111 testimony. I also swear or affirm to the truthfulness of its content. Before giving  
112 this statement, I was told to include everything I knew that could be relevant to  
113 the events described related to these charges. I also understand that I can and must  
114 update this affidavit if anything new occurs to me until the date of the trial in this  
115 case. I have also read and am familiar with the statements I provided to police  
116 officers and law enforcement officers related to these events and confirm that all

117 documents showing my signature reflect my genuine signature.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cory Fan', written in a cursive style.

Subscribed and sworn to me on this 20th day of February 1884:

Cory Fan

Public Notary



# AFFIDAVIT OF RICHARD PARKER

1           After being duly sworn upon oath, Richard Parker hereby states as follows:  
2 I am competent to make this affidavit. I am testifying voluntarily and was not  
3 subpoenaed or compelled to testify.

4           My name is Richard Parker, born on May 29th, 1868. That's funny, as  
5 it was the exact day the Parliament of the United Kingdom passed the Capital  
6 Punishment Amendment Act, ending public hanging. I guess there is a little bit of  
7 irony everywhere. Anyways, I was not from a particularly wealthy family, and with  
8 my mother dead since 4, I was raised by my father, an alcoholic that told me sailor  
9 stories since young. However, the fabrication on his tales were evident, and I never  
10 really knew the actual regulations of the high seas as it was.

11           But with such passion and youth, one sunny morning of '85, when coming  
12 back from an errand one day to get father his usual pint of beer and some tobacco,  
13 I saw a poster of the Hampshire Yacht Company hiring for an apprentice hanging  
14 from a lamppost. A yacht, that was something my father had boasted about being  
15 on, and described its majestic nature, so I signed up immediately. British law set  
16 the age of working at 16, and with my father's recommendation letter, (maybe he  
17 actually wasn't making up all his stories) I was officially employed as an apprentice  
18 pretty easily.

19           My first trip was supposed to be an easy one - someone by the name of Jack  
20 Want wanted to get his yacht, the Mignonette, to Australia. It was a long journey  
21 but an easy one as the routes we traveled upon were known to be particularly calm  
22 for the sea. However, the company sent out three experienced sailors to go with me  
23 so that I could be trained and gain experience. Well I guess I messed up anyways.  
24 I was also not experienced with the maritime regulations. They really should've  
25 taught me more before just putting me onto a boat and sending me off, but my  
26 inexperience showed in the couple of days on the boat. Soon they realized that I  
27 was a weak boy that didn't know much about the sea either. By they I meant all

28 three of the sailors.

29 Since I was young, my body hasn't been incredibly healthy. A skinny and  
30 frail boy, this sometimes led to unwarranted laughter at school. Needless to say,  
31 the trip started quite rough for me. I soon realized that the ocean was something  
32 dangerous and definitely physically tedious. As the youngest member of the crew,  
33 I was in charge of many chores that would often leave me breathless, and some of  
34 the other crew members, especially Dudley and Stevens, would push me around  
35 sometimes. They called it 'hazing' but I really felt bullied. At night, I would cry  
36 and miss home, but Brooks would come over and comfort me. Being a seasoned  
37 navigator, he told me that it was normal for sailors on their first trip to feel like  
38 this. We soon became good friends in a day or two. Obviously, he was the only one  
39 I could trust on the trip, and he definitely knew that. Brooks was always looking  
40 on and holding back on his judgements, sometimes even letting that hinder some  
41 information from being told. He's always come across as a careful person but with  
42 wise judgements, and this is why we all trusted him.

43 Dudley, on the other hand, was different. I don't know if anyone has told  
44 you guys this but he was a fuse that could be lit any second. Honestly, he should've  
45 been charged more than he is being charged right now. I mean, before the trip,  
46 Dudley actually had physical altercations with me, shoving me into the deck. It  
47 was rough, but none of the others wanted to say anything as Dudley was a pretty  
48 big man. There was originally no evidence corroborating the bullying, but Brooks  
49 stood out and told the supervisor about this. The company, obviously, was taking  
50 none of it, and ordered that Dudley was to be removed from duty if he did not  
51 perform exemplary for this Mignonette Trip. Dudley somehow knew that Brooks  
52 leaked the word and was naturally furious. He was talking right before sailing and  
53 said, "on the seas there's no way Edmund can protect the boy anymore, he needs  
54 to be taught a lesson." I didn't know what to say and just tried to avoid him at all  
55 costs.

56 But then there came the storm, I was woken up in the middle of the night by  
57 Brooks, he told me that the ship was going down and that we had to leave



immediately. Thunder and rainfall cracked on the yacht and we had to put the lifeboats down quickly. In all the panic and chaos, all I could grab was two cans of turnips from my bed stand (they were my favorite snack on board) and hopped into the lifeboat with the others. Seeing the yacht go down in a spiral before our own eyes just left us silent in the pouring rain.

That's right, the rain, if we knew that the rain would be the last source of clear water we'd ever see, this might have turned out a lot differently. As we started our voyage in that lifeboat, we quickly ran out of fresh water sources, and I think it's fair to say that everyone became more light-headed as time went by.

Here's the thing about the lifeboat - it is designed to have all these different compartments, quite a large piece of work if you ask me. So I would be sleeping in the bottom of the lifeboat while the rest of the crew slept in the open air, which was bigger and more comfortable. As the stranding continued, we all got a lot more irritated. I woke up one night and heard what I think is Dudley and Stevens talking. I heard them mutter "maybe it is better that the boy died" and "how should we do it?" I wasn't sure if I heard right or if that was targeted towards me. Afterall, it was midnight and I was tired, but I was still scared so I told Brooks about it. He just pondered and wandered to the other side of the raft without saying a word.

The next morning, Brooks brought me breakfast with what he said was some turtle that they caught. However, once I tasted it I knew something was wrong - I have never tasted something so salty in my life. It was almost as if someone dipped the food into seawater and then served it. Despite the abysmal tasting, I was still hungry, and finished the whole thing.

I soon felt worse after consuming the part of the turtle, and lay ill on the makeshift bed in the lower compartment of the raft. Brooks got angrier by the day and isolated me as well, for a while it seemed like everyone was just done with this, done with the pain. I slipped in and out of a fervent fever with my consciousness regaining usually only during the day. Feeling the life drain out of me, I knew that I desperately needed water. That was the only word I muttered really, just water...



88           So then one night, I woke up to hear Brooks trying to give me water... Was  
89           it seawater? I couldn't quite remember. I saw some liquids and simply gulped them  
90           down, but it only made me worse. I was young and inexperienced, not knowing the  
91           damages the seawater could have to my body. But Brooks was there and he gave  
92           me the water, maybe he didn't know either. I tend to not think the worst of people,  
93           plus, Brooks was my only friend back then.

94           It was Dudley that really spooked me frankly. In my dreams (whether they  
95           are nightmares or reality I can not tell for sure) but I recall him whispering in my  
96           ear "you are going to die, we are going to kill you and eat you." The unpleasant  
97           looks from him and Stevens were very frequent and I was worried about my own  
98           wellbeing. Dudley also had this knife that he kept swinging around. It did look very  
99           menacing, and I mean, the last thing I remembered was Dudley saying to Stevens,  
100          "Edmund isn't strong enough, we have to do this by ourselves." I saw the gleam of  
101          something, and then...nothing more.

102          I am familiar with all exhibits in this case as I have been shown them.  
103          However, I may not qualify to testify upon the specific knowledge of each piece of  
104          evidence. I have been shown all of them before today's trial, however.

105          I hereby attest to having read the above statement and swear or affirm it to be my  
106          own and consistent with the testimony provided during my grand jury testimony. I  
107          also swear or affirm to the truthfulness of its content. Before giving this statement,  
108          I was told to include everything I knew that could be relevant to the events  
109          described related to these charges. I also understand that I can and must update  
110          this affidavit if anything new occurs to me until the date of the trial in this case. I  
111          have also read and am familiar with the statements I provided to police officers and  
112          law enforcement officers related to these events and confirm that all documents  
113          showing my signature reflect my genuine signature

Signed:



Subscribed and sworn to me on this 25<sup>th</sup> day of November 1885:



LACAH V

THE  
MIGNONETTE

BLOOD AT SEA

