Chapter Abstracts

Chapter abstracts are short descriptions of events that occur in each chapter. They highlight major plot events and detail the important relationships and characteristics of characters and objects.

Chapter 1 Abstract
* Charlotte is a young lady of a wealthy family who is being led by a hired man to the Seahawk, a ship that is to take her back to her home in America.
* When Mr. Grummage tells Charlotte that Captain Jaggery is the captain of the Seahawk, the man carrying her luggage drops it and refuses to go any further.
* A second man is hired to carry the luggage, but he, too, drops the load when he sees which ship he is to load the cargo on.

Chapter 2 Abstract
* While Charlotte waits for Mr. Grummage to confer with the captain, she looks at the ship. She notes that the figurehead looks more like an avenging angel than a docile seahawk.
* When Mr. Grummage comes back, he tells Charlotte that the two families she was to travel with have canceled, and she will be traveling alone.
* Mr. Grummage has business in Scotland, and he leaves Charlotte alone. She finds it inappropriate for her to travel alone on a ship full of men.

Chapter 3 Abstract
* Charlotte is greeted by the second mate, Mr. Keetch, who tells Charlotte she should find another ship. Mr. Grummage refuses and leaves.
* Charlotte is shown to her room, which she finds very small and empty. Mr. Barlow brings her luggage and warns her to leave the ship.
* When she is alone in her room, she cries and has a growing sense of worry. Zachariah, an old black man, comes to her room.

Chapter 4 Abstract
* Zachariah takes her to the galley where he makes her some tea and tries to befriend her by telling her they are both outsiders.
* Charlotte has no interest in making friendships or taking advice from the hired help.
* Zachariah gives Charlotte a knife for her protection, which she hides under her mattress.

Chapter 5 Abstract
* When Charlotte wakes up, she hopes to be able to get off the ship. When she goes
on deck, she finds that they have already set sail and there is no land to be seen.
* Charlotte sees the captain and is elated to see a man in fine clothing. She stands by while he inspects the crew.
* Captain Jaggery tells the crew that since Cranick is not on board, they will all have to work extra hard as they are short a man.
* He also tells the crew that they will probably not see him again as he will communicate through his first mate.

Chapter 6 Abstract

* Charlotte approaches Captain Jaggery and he smiles and speaks kindly to her even though he refuses to take her back to England.
* Charlotte returns to her room and falls ill for many days. Captain Jaggery and Zachariah both check on her often.
* At one point, Charlotte throws the knife that Zachariah gave her at a rat.

Chapter 7 Abstract

* When Charlotte wakes up after being sick for four days, she stumbles over the knife Zachariah gave her. She decides to return it to him.
* Zachariah convinces Charlotte to have some tea and food with him, and he tells her to keep the knife because she could be in danger by Captain Jaggery.
* Zachariah tells Charlotte that on a previous voyage, Captain Jaggery beat Mr. Cranick so harshly that he lost an arm. Charlotte understands now why men wouldn't go near the ship.
* Zachariah says that all the men in the crew have served under Captain Jaggery before and want revenge. He warns Charlotte that she will be in danger if she appears to be on his side.

Chapter 8 Abstract

* Mr. Hollybrass finds Charlotte and invites her to take some tea in the captain's cabin.

Chapter 9 Abstract

* As Charlotte is taken to the captain's cabin, she is disgusted by what Zachariah told her, and does not believe a word of it.
* She is impressed with the fine furnishings in the captain's cabin and finds him very courteous and gentlemanly.
* Captain Jaggery seems to know that a mutiny could be underway and asks Charlotte to spy for him and look for a round robin - a mutinous contract.

Chapter 10 Abstract

* Charlotte agrees to help the captain. He explains that sometimes he has to be
harsh because the crew is so uncivilized.
* Charlotte shows the captain the knife Zachariah gave her when he says all arms are in his safe. She lies about where she got it to protect Zachariah.
* Captain Jaggery tells her to keep it just in case she is ever in danger.

Chapter 11 Abstract
* Charlotte walks with Captain Jaggery across the ship, and feels like royalty.
* Charlotte mentions that the ship is moving slowly, and Captain Jaggery agrees. He orders the men to set the sails to catch some more wind.
* Charlotte says this is an impressive sight, but it doesn't speed the ship up at all.

Chapter 12 Abstract
* Mr. Barlow takes Charlotte down to the cargo hold to look through her chest. He tells her that Captain Jaggery forced them to set the sail just to be cruel as there was no wind at all.
* Charlotte is left alone with her trunk when she feels herself being watched. She turns around to see a smiling face and screams, which blows out her candle.

Chapter 13 Abstract
* Charlotte is terrified when she is in the dark alone and pulls out her knife to defend herself. After a few moments she realizes that the head is nothing more than a carving.
* Charlotte returns to her room to change and realizes that someone blew out her candle. This means that someone was there and put the carved head there before running away.
* Charlotte considers telling Captain Jaggery about the experience, but decides not to because she doesn't want to be seen as a child.

Chapter 14 Abstract
* Charlotte comments on the fact that both Captain Jaggery and Zachariah want very badly to be her friend. She decides to be friendly to both men, staying closer to Captain Jaggery.
* Charlotte considers throwing the knife overboard, but remembers that both Captain Jaggery and Zachariah told her to keep it. She puts it under her bed.

Chapter 15 Abstract
* Charlotte begins to get more comfortable with life on the sea. She gets bored with the routine and the bland food. The highlight of every day is tea with the captain.
* Charlotte's clothes begin to get worn and dirty, so she saves one dress to wear when she gets to America. Zachariah makes a blouse and some pants for Charlotte.
* Charlotte accepts the gift, but feels it is inappropriate to wear them. After trying
them on, she writes an essay about the appropriate actions of a young lady.

**Chapter 16 Abstract**

* There is a lack of wind, so Captain Jaggery orders the men to get in row boats and pull the boat along. Charlotte tells him the men are tired and upset.
* Captain Jaggery says they will wake up when the wind picks up, and he wants to break their will.
* Charlotte and Zachariah become closer friends, and she spends more time with the crew members, finding their stories entertaining.

**Chapter 17 Abstract**

* Charlotte is reading to Ewing when he breaks a needle. She goes to the forecastle to get another one for him. When she gets there, she sees a group of men talking about her.
* When she opens Ewing’s chest, she finds a pistol. She gets the needle and turns to leave when she sees a round robin.
* Charlotte goes to tell Captain Jaggery, but is stopped by Morgan who makes a cutting action across her throat. She goes to her room, and heads to the captain later in the day to tell him.
* Mr. Hollybrass is with him when Charlotte gets there, and when they hear this news, Hollybrass looks white and faint, and Captain Jaggery is furious.
* Captain Jaggery orders the men to be gathered so he can spoil their plan.

**Chapter 18 Abstract**

* Captain Jaggery arms himself and calls all the men on deck. They all show up armed. Mr. Cranick is there - he was the stow away.
* Cranick is the leader of the group, and he demands that Captain Jaggery receive a trial at sea. Captain Jaggery shoots him in the chest and has him thrown overboard.
* Charlotte refuses to help Captain Jaggery throw the man overboard, and she also refuses to choose a man to be punished for the mutiny.
* Captain Jaggery chooses to have Zachariah punished as the leader of the mutiny.

**Chapter 19 Abstract**

* Before being whipped 50 times, Zachariah tells Captain Jaggery that he is a terrible captain, and he forgives Charlotte and the crew for getting him in trouble.
* When Captain Jaggery tells Hollybrass to hit Zachariah harder, Charlotte tries to tackle Hollybrass. In the midst of this she accidentally whips Captain Jaggery in the face.
* Captain Jaggery takes the whip and brutally beats Zachariah a few times before marching off the deck in a rage.
* When Captain Jaggery is gone, the crew cuts down Zachariah and takes him below. Charlotte is left alone on the deck.
Chapter 20 Abstract

* Charlotte cries in her room, knowing that she no longer has any friends. She got the crew in trouble, and she hurt the captain.
* After cleaning herself up, she goes to see Captain Jaggery and begs for forgiveness. He shows her the cut on his face and says he cares nothing for her anymore.
* Charlotte leaves his cabin, and sees the crew praying over Zachariah's body and watches as they throw him overboard. The whipping killed his old body.
* Fisk is given all of Zachariah's duties, and the men are told that even though they are now severely understaffed, they will work harder than ever.
* Charlotte speaks with Fisk, who tells her all the wonderful things Zachariah used to say about her. She decides to try and honor his memory and help the crew.
* Charlotte puts on the clothes that Zachariah made her, and she joins the crew ready to help them however she can.

Chapter 21 Abstract

* When Fisk and Charlotte tell other members of the crew that she wants to join and help the crew, they give her a task in order for her to prove her loyalty to them.
* Charlotte is told to climb to the highest point of the ship and back down again. This is something that would take a crew member about 2 minutes to do.
* It takes her 30 minutes, and she almost falls at one point, but Charlotte completes the task. Just as she finishes, Captain Jaggery charges through the crowd.

Chapter 22 Abstract

* When Charlotte reaches the deck, Captain Jaggery yells at her to change at once and stop being a distraction. She refuses and says she is a crew member now.
* Captain Jaggery insists that Charlotte move into the crew housing and calls her Mr. Doyle from then on. The crew cheer her efforts and are proud of her.
* The crew is patient and helpful in teaching Charlotte what she must learn. She is a quick study and her body grows accustomed to the work.
* Captain Jaggery is rarely on deck as he is embarrassed by the welt on his face, and he is not on good terms with My. Hollybrass anymore.
* When he is on deck, he hopes to catch Charlotte in a mistake. One day he forces her to fix a tangled sail in a dangerous position. She does so, but almost drowns in the process.
* Captain Jaggery slaps her for her foolishness, but she insults him right back, which shocks Captain Jaggery and he walks away speechless.
* Charlotte sees a bird flying and thinks they must be near land. Barlow tells her that the bird was blown away in a hurricane. They will sail close to the storm to pick up speed.

Abstract
* When the ship enters the storm, Captain Jaggery orders Charlotte to climb the mainmast and cut free the sails. As she does so, her hair gets in the way, and she cuts it off with a knife.
* While cutting the sail free, Charlotte almost falls, and she is saved by none other than Zachariah. When they reach the eye of the storm, they find that Mr. Hollybrass has been murdered.
* Hollybrass was stabbed in the back with a small knife and is holding Charlotte's handkerchief.
* Charlotte spends the rest of the storm manning the pumps and the wheel. When the storm is over, she collapses from exhaustion.

* After the storm, Charlotte sleeps for 14 hours. She is surprised when she wakes up that nobody came to wake her to perform her duties.
* When she asks a crew member why she was allowed to sleep, he tells her that Captain Jaggery has accused her of killing Mr. Hollybrass.
* When Charlotte tries to confront Captain Jaggery, he orders Barlow to take her to the brig.
* Charlotte is left alone in the darkness when she realizes that someone is there with her. It is Zachariah. He is not dead.

* Charlotte cannot believe her eyes when she sees Zachariah. He tells her that he used an old sailor's trick to fake his death. Keetch has been feeding him.
* Charlotte was not told that Zachariah was alive because she told Captain Jaggery about the mutiny, and they could not trust her.
* Zachariah is amazed that the crew is believing Captain Jaggery's accusation. Charlotte thinks Zachariah is the real murderer.
* Zachariah says he came out during the storm to make sure the ship made it through. He also tells her that the punishment for murder is hanging.
* Captain Jaggery comes down to take Charlotte to her trial, telling her the crew will decide her fate.

* Charlotte is taken on to the deck, which now looks like a courtroom. The crew are seated in two rows ready to act as a jury.
* Captain Jaggery submits all the evidence against her, including the fact that she is unnatural as she is a woman doing the work of a man.
* Nobody speaks out in her defense, so Charlotte is convicted as a murderer and sentenced to be hung in 24 hours.

* Zachariah is shocked that the crew did not try to defend Charlotte in the trial. Charlotte accuses him of the murder, and he denies it.
* Zachariah realizes that the crew must also think he committed the murder, and they are trying to protect him. He knows Captain Jaggery must have seen him during the storm.
* Zachariah says he saw Captain Jaggery and Hollybrass arguing during the storm. Hollybrass was accusing him of getting caught in the storm.
* They realize that by hanging Charlotte, killing Hollybrass, and then coming after
Zachariah, Captain Jaggery would have a complete revenge.
* Zachariah says he could confront Captain Jaggery if only he had the key to the safe with all the guns. Charlotte says she knows where the key is kept.

* Charlotte says the key is hidden behind the picture of Captain Jaggery's daughter. Zachariah says she must get the key while he keeps Captain Jaggery out of the cabin.
* Zachariah goes to inform the crew of the plan and Charlotte thinks about her family, wondering if she will ever be able to tell them about her experiences.
* Keetch comes back with Zachariah and says that they are days away from America, and that is why Captain Jaggery is rushing the execution.
* Keetch is to make the wheel get stuck so that Captain Jaggery will come and repair it, giving Charlotte time to get the key.
* On her way to his cabin, Charlotte passes her old room and remembers people talking about her and tries to figure out who they were.
* When Charlotte enters Captain Jaggery's cabin, Captain Jaggery is there to greet her.
* Captain Jaggery tells Charlotte that Keetch has been spying for him from the very beginning, and gives Charlotte 3 choices: be hung, continue with her plan, or act like a young lady again.
* When the lights are turned on, she sees that all the fine furnishings were damaged in the storm. She refuses to choose and walks out of the cabin.
* Keetch has Zachariah tied up. Captain Jaggery runs out of the cabin yelling that Charlotte tried to murder him and chases her around the ship. When he tries to shoot her, he falls overboard and drowns.
* Charlotte takes a knife from a crewman and releases Zachariah. Zachariah suggests that Charlotte be made captain as she did what none of them could.

* As they near the port, Charlotte puts on her dress and finds it terribly uncomfortable. She bids a teary goodbye to the crew and rejoins her family, who is shocked at her appearance.
* Charlotte tries to tell her parents about working with the crew, and they refuse to hear any of it and send her to be bathed. All of her tattered dresses are given to the poor.
* Charlotte is called down to see her parents and sees that her journal is being burned. Her father berates her for writing lies and sends her to her room.
* Charlotte convinces her maid to bring her a newspaper every day. She sees an ad for the next sailing of the Seahawk, and acts like her parents want her to until then.
* The night before the ship sails, she puts on the sailing clothes and sneaks out of her parents house to rejoin Zachariah and the crew.