

HUMANITIES INSTITUTE
Jason Zimmerman, MA

Jamaica Inn (1939)

Alfred Hitchcock

OVERVIEW

Director Sir Alfred Hitchcock (1899-1980) is a household name and perhaps the best-known British filmmaker. With over 50 films to his credit, Hitchcock helped to shape the modern understanding of the thriller genre. His best-known films include *The Birds*, *Psycho*, *Vertigo*, and *Rear Window*, all of which have earned accolades, including preservation by the US Film Registry. In 1960, Hitchcock was inducted into the Hollywood Walk of Fame with two stars for his work in both film and television. He was also the first recipient of the BAFTA Academy Fellowship Award.

Film Based on Daphne du Maurier's 1936 novel of the same name, *Jamaica Inn* would be Hitchcock's final British film. It has been said that du Maurier hated Hitchcock's adaptation so much she considered withholding the rights to *Rebecca*, another of her novels that the director was interested in adapting. Charles Laughton was a co-producer on the film, and this caused Hitchcock many headaches. The world-famous actor's constant meddling and poor characterization forced Hitchcock to change the script several times, revealing Pengallan's collusion with the wreckers much earlier in the film than was originally intended.

Background *Jamaica Inn* was produced by Mayflower Productions and shot at the Elstree studios in London. At the time of its release, it received no end of disparaging opinions from film critics, who thought the adaptation was too 'campy' and light-hearted compared to its source material. Perhaps this was because of Hitchcock's many distractions: He was moving to America and found it impossible to work with Laughton. Despite the criticism, the film was a financial success, earning \$3.7 million, which was considerable at the time. After working with Maureen O'Hara, Laughton invited her to follow him to the US, where she starred with him in the 1939 adaptation of *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, propelling her into the international spotlight.

CINEMATIC NARRATION

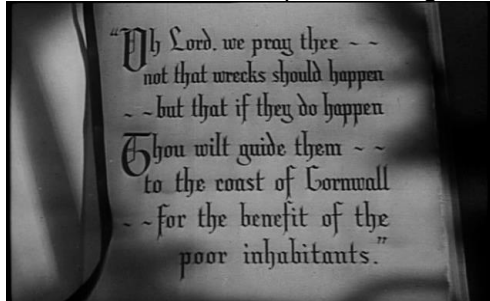
While critics of the past might be correct in their complaints about the adaptation of du Maurier's novel, as a film, *Jamaica Inn* is entertaining and occasionally striking in its cinematography. Excellent use of models and practical effects bring the movie's many storms to life, drenching the viewer in the cold brine of the Cornish coast. While Charles Laughton's performance received some praise in the 1930s and 40s, today's viewers might find his performance comic and melodramatic. As a producer, the actor demanded more scenes that included Pengallan. All in all, Laughton casts a massive shadow over his co-stars, stifling their performances.

MAIN CHARACTERS

Sir Humphrey Pengallan	A nobleman acting as Justice of the Peace in Cornwall
Mary Yellen	A young Irishwoman seeking her aunt after the death of her parents
James 'Jem' Trehearne	An undercover investigator for the British government
Patience Merlyn	Mary's aunt and Joss' wife, keeper at the Jamaica Inn
Joss Merlyn	Leader of a band of wreckers based at the Jamaica Inn
Chadwick	Pengallan's butler

PLOT

Wrecker's prayer- A trio of title cards appear after the credits. One bears a prayer asking that ships lost at sea should get wrecked on the coast of Cornwall so its "poor inhabitants" could benefit from them. The next two describe the gangs of wreckers active on the Cornish coast. Sea sounds and whistling wind continue as a wooden sign swings wildly, with the words 'Jamaica Inn'. A man in a tricorn hat exits the inn and mounts a horse, galloping away. At a cliff edge, he comes to a stop near a large oil lamp swaying in the wind. This beacon warns sailors of the rocky outcrops below the cliff. The horseman looks into the distance and sees a ship floundering in the storm's winds.



Lost light- Waves crash over the railings aboard the ship as the captain and helmsman both struggle to hold the wheel steady. "Can you make out the beacon light?!" one of them cries. The other thinks he can make out a light, but back on shore, the horseman covers the lantern with his cloak, obscuring it. Lost, the crew struggles for a moment to maintain control before a large wave batters the ship, throwing the captain and helmsman off the wheel, which spins wildly. The vessel dashes against the rocks and comes to a halt. On cue, the wreckers descend upon the ship, killing all survivors before carting the goods back to the inn.



Coach- The moon shines between clouds as a coach rattles across the moors. "I don't like it at all," complains the driver, "That place gives me the creeps." The man riding shotgun is confused and the driver points out the Jamaica Inn, saying he won't stop there, not even for "double fare." Several people are sleep or amuse themselves inside the coach. One of them, Mary Yellen, asks, "Is Jamaica Inn on this road?" Her question is met with shocked looks and a frightened "yes." The young woman leans out of the carriage and asks the driver how long to the inn. He responds by urging his horses into a breakneck sprint. It doesn't take long for Mary to realize the coachman isn't going to stop at the inn. She leans out again, shouting to no avail. He stops the horses at a crossroads far from the inn, depositing Mary and her belongings there before driving away. Nearby, Mary can see an opulent mansion.



A toast to Sir Humphrey- The camera moves into the mansion's grand foyer adorned with marble statues and ornate candelabras. There is some activity in a nearby room, and the camera moves closer. "I think we owe a toast to Sir Humphrey!" a man says. All the guests agree, raising their glasses. Sir Humphrey Pengallan, sitting at the head of the table, says he forgot to toast the newly crowned King George IV: "I haven't been on speaking terms for years with the fat fool." A guest then asks which of the lakes Pengallan enjoyed most when on tour. Pengallan calls for his butler, Chadwick, and comically asks him to remember which lake it was. Pengallan parrots the butler's answer and another guest proposes a toast to beauty. He begins talking about 'Nancy.' After a moment's conversation, Pengallan commands Chadwick to let Nancy in, and the butler opens the doors for a racehorse to enter the dining room.



"Ringwood, you've won"- Pengallan shouts after Chadwick, who is busy answering the door. The butler says there's a woman. The Pengallan moves from the dining room to investigate, but not before making a bet with a guest: "20-1 in guineas she's ugly." He seems stunned by Mary's beauty when he finds her in the foyer but recovers quickly, asking her to remove her coat. She seems unwilling but does as she's asked. "My dear," he says, stepping back, "You're a beauty. Ringwood, you've won!" As he finishes speaking, he throws a pouch of coins onto the dinner table where the guests scramble to gather up its spilled contents. Pengallan circles Mary, quoting Byron to describe her beauty before introducing himself and offering the young woman a horse and escort to Jamaica Inn.



Jamaica Inn- The Jamaica Inn sign swings in the wind as Mary and Pengallan approach on horseback. The lord dismounts and assists Mary off her horse before placing her luggage by the inn's door. "If I can be of any service, please command me," says Lord Pengallan. "Remember, I'm Pengallan, and this is Pengallan land." He mounts his horse once more and leaves with the other horse in tow. Mary smiles broadly as she waves farewell before turning to the inn's front door. Someone inside watches from a nearby window.



Gunpoint greeting- As Mary moves to knock on the door, it swings open and a man with a lantern and a gun demands to know who she is. “Does Mrs. Patience Merlyn live here?” the young woman asks, calm while having a gun pointed at her. “She might,” the man replies, “And she might not.” Mary says that she’d sent word to her Aunt Patience that she would be coming to live there. “What put that in your head?” the man demands, “Who told you so, eh?” After some teasing about wanting a kiss, the man reveals that he is Joss, Mary’s uncle. Aunt Patience appears behind him on the stairway, coming to see what the ruckus is about.



“You’re in black”- After a moment’s hesitation, Mary and Patience embrace. “Mary, my sister’s Mary,” Patience says, “When I heard your voice at first, I thought it was hers.” Joss interrupts: “She said you were expecting her to stay.” Patience says she never received word of that, trying to console the young woman before noticing that she’s wearing all black. “Mother died three weeks ago today,” says Mary. Patience is shocked by the news, and Mary tells her it happened suddenly because her mother refused to rest during an illness. As the women talk, a whistling man pokes his head out of a nearby doorway. Joss waves him away and turns his attention back to the women.



Something to eat- Joss berates Patience for not retrieving her niece’s luggage. Mary follows to help only to be pushed away by Joss who says he isn’t “the sort to let lovely ladies spoil themselves with rough work.” After rudely chucking Mary’s trunk up the stairs, Joss turns around and looks at the young woman. “Our Mary’s a little bit sour tonight,” he says, “but, bless you, the best of us can’t be sweet-tempered on an empty belly.” Patience agrees and asks Mary to follow her to the kitchen and invites her to rest there. Mary says she wants to help and, despite Patience’s protests, finds the tablecloth and begins to set the table.



“Got a visitor”- Hearing an uproar from a nearby room, Joss moves to investigate. “Only some late customers in the parlor,” Patience says to Mary, “They’ll be going soon, no doubt.” Laughter erupts once more as Joss enters the room, yelling, “Shut that gab!” The room falls silent. Joss speaks calmly as he swaggers into the middle of the room, telling the dozen or so men inside, “You see, boys, we’ve got a visitor.” They are the wreckers from earlier. A young man mentions that the visitor has a nice figure. Then an older man chastises the young man’s lust, condemning him to hell. Every man here is different, the thing binding them together is a need for cash.



Childhood memories- “I’m not what you expected, am I?” Aunt Patience asks Mary. The young woman reminds her that she was a young child when Patience left Ireland. Patience asks Mary if she has any memories of the time, and Mary replies that she remembers her aunt’s beauty. Patience modestly agrees, saying Mary’s mother probably told her all about Patience’s decision to leave, making suppositions about the stories the young woman could have heard. She switches topics to her husband: “Joss has been a good husband to me. There’s nothing I’d change even if I could.”



A leak- The camera jumps back to the parlor. “It’s hard work and it’s risky work,” says the oldest wrecker, “It’s work we’ll rot in chains for one day.” He starts to complain about the lack of compensation, spitting in disgust. “That last wreck didn’t bring in what it should have,” he continues. Joss responds aggressively, asserting his dominance over the criminals. The old man points the finger at another wrecker, one who wears spectacles and writes with a quill. Joss is upon him in an instant, choking him with his collar. “Showing off your arithmetic, eh?” he taunts the man. The struggle continues for a moment until one of the wreckers puts forward the idea there could be a leak in the operation. Joss singles out Jem Trehearne, as he’s only been in their company for two months.



How to treat a woman- Patience appears in the doorway, seeking her husband. "Clear out!" Joss snarls as he approaches her. He raises a fist to strike her and Patience begs him to stop. Joss senses genuine concern in her voice and lowers his hand, closing the door to the parlor as the couple exits. "Mary's just told me, she came to the inn with squire Pengallan," Patience says. Joss stomps away, Patience trailing behind him asking questions. He stands menacingly over Mary, asking how she came to meet Pengallan. She responds that the coach refused to stop at the inn and she went to the mansion for help. "Sir Humphrey was very kind and most obliging," she says, her mood shifting towards anger as she looks back at her uncle. "He knows how to behave towards a woman."



A pair of scissors- Joss walks away from the two women briskly, grabbing a bottle and a mug before climbing up the staircase. He stops for a moment to fling Mary's trunk one last time. He enters a room at the top of the stairs and seems to recognize someone inside: "We didn't get the haul we hoped for tonight, sir. There was a full gale blowing down there and the ship broke clean in two, sir." The camera pans down a long sheet of silk, resting on Sir Pengallan who inspects the fabric. "Get a pair of scissors, Merlyn," he orders, chastizing him for getting blood on the goods. He continues speaking, showing no remorse for the lost lives of the "rum-rotten sailors" who were shipping the goods. The conversation turns to Mary and then the wrecker's anger over the size of their cut. Pengallan sounds angry: "I know what to do with money when I have it. That's why I must have it." A commotion begins downstairs and Joss runs off to see what it is.



Brigands brawl- Down the stairs, Joss commands Patience and Mary to go to their rooms. The men push Jem from the parlor, punching and pulling him towards a heavy beam. It seems Joss' suspicion has swayed the minds of the other wreckers. Upstairs, Patience helps Mary into her room. Before she leaves, she kisses her niece on the cheek and urges her to get some sleep. Mary places her tray of food on her bed but hears the wreckers arguing downstairs and moves closer to the source of the sound.



New chap's gold- One of the wreckers rifles through Jem's pockets, finding a coin purse with "the better part of fifteen pounds in gold." The wreckers look to Joss. "You've got yourself in a pretty mess, Mr. Trehearne," he says, "What have you got to say?" Despite his answers, Joss accuses the young man of selling stuff on the side, pinning the leak on him. Jem tries to defend himself again, saying the wreckers are being played for fools and that another man is the mastermind. Joss hits him over the head with a heavy flagon, knocking him unconscious.



"As good a way as any"- "He done us. We do him," says one of the wreckers. "What are we waiting for?" asks another as they all brandish weapons. Another wrecker begins whistling a tune and collecting a long rope, thinking a hanging will negate the need to clean up the scene. Mary watches, horrified, from a dirty window in the corner of her room as the wreckers create a makeshift noose. Joss wanders upstairs, saying he wants to assure the women are still in their rooms. Instead, he talks to Pengallan, who is dressing for his ride home, telling the boss about Jem and the need to kill him. Pengallan tells him a hanging is "as good a way as any," and Joss orders the men to carry on. As they put the rope around Jem's neck, one of the wreckers orders the rest out of the room, not wanting any fights about the valuables on Jem's body.



Unseen savior- Mary watches from her bedroom as a few of the wreckers prepare the noose by wrapping the rope around a tall, sturdy beam and hoisting Jem's unconscious body. As they do so, the old man from before talks about how killing an unconscious man is without honor. Mary's face contorts in horror as the rope beneath her tightens under the man's weight. Below, one of the wreckers steals the silver buckles off Jem's shoes and the others pursue him out of the room, fighting over the valuables. Mary takes the bread knife from her tray and quickly saws the rope strangling Jem. He falls to the floor, barely conscious but alive.



Hasty escape- Keeping close watch for any of the wreckers, Mary leaves her room and heads down the stairway. She pauses at the bottom as she watches two fighting wreckers' silhouettes cast on a nearby door. Then, she rushes down the hall and into the storeroom where Jem was just hanging. She finds him on the floor and helps him out of the noose and onto his feet. They stumble out of the room as the wreckers continue to brawl. Upstairs, Joss escorts Pengallan out one of the front doors just as Mary and Jem exit from downstairs. Jem thanks Mary and leaves as Mary makes her way back to her room, hiding from the fighting wreckers on her way up.

"Took by the angels"- Joss is waiting in Mary's room. He asks if she was bidding her aunt good night, and she nods. Menacingly, Joss tells Mary that he's thought the situation over and that she can stay "as long as she feels inclined." Shouting downstairs gets his attention and he rushes off, locking eyes with his wife for a moment as they pass. A wrecker on the stairs tells Joss "he's been took." Joss is confused and the wrecker says, "Trehearne, he's been took by the angels." Joss replies that he knows the boy was killed but then the wrecker shows him the cut rope. Patience pushes Mary into her room and cries, "You must leave Jamaica Inn this minute."



Debt repaid- Moving to the storeroom to investigate, Joss sees the broken plank that gave Mary access to the rope. "That blasted girl!" he growls as he makes his way back upstairs. Patience begs Mary to leave, pushing her down the hall and distracting her husband when he comes bounding up the stairs. "Where's that girl?" he barks as Mary creeps outside just beyond his view. Outside, Mary is unsure where to go when a pair of arms appear and lift her. Jem is on the roof of the inn, smiling. He covers her mouth and they lean back against the roof as the wreckers assemble a search party in front of the inn. Joss' voice echoes from inside as wreckers jog around the grounds with lanterns. Jem says he knows a place they can hide and helps Mary down from the roof. As they begin to leave, Joss comes around the corner with a horse. He confers with a few of the wreckers before they all take off, and Jem and Mary creep away.



Pengallan's late return- "Chadwick!" Pengallan cries as he ascends the stairs. As if predicting his master's actions, Chadwick appears. "It's late, sir," says the butler. He has a number of pieces of paper in his hands. Bills, past due. Pengallan will hear nothing of his mounting debts or the suggestions to spend less. He takes the bills from Chadwick and throws them over the railing. "Don't butcher and baker me! You old numbskull!" He seems remorseful almost immediately as the butler descends the stairs to clean up the mess and apologies for his behavior, saying his outbursts are inexcusable. "What happened to my grandfather?" he asks Chadwick, who pulls a frightened face. "He went mad, didn't he?" Pengallan continues, grinning somberly.



Joss' report- A knock on the window surprises Pengallan, and he orders his butler to bed before heading back outside. Joss awaits him, peering about suspiciously at the front of the mansion. Pengallan is angry. "How dare you come here to me," he says quite loudly, despite his preference for privacy, "Haven't I told you a score of times?" Joss apologizes and informs Pengallan of Mary's and Jem's escape. Joss is afraid Jem will inform on them, but Pengallan accuses the man of "losing his head." Pengallan is the justice of the peace, and any informing Jem wants to do will be done directly to him. He orders Joss off his property, shouting at the top of his lungs, "If you want any more fat pickings on the shore, just obey orders. And don't come here again. Get out! Get out!"



Seaside cave- Waves crash against the Cornish coastline as seagulls cry. Jem and Mary lay nestled together in a little cove among the cliffs. A rowboat bobs in front of the cave, tethered tightly by a rope. In a close-up, Jem bleeds from a cut across his brow as Mary awakens. She seems confused by the seagulls and shocked by Jem's hand on her shoulder. Her eyes rest on his knife in the sand and she assumes she is a prisoner. The girl attempts to escape by boat but she wakes Jem when she drops an oar. Jem manages to stop Mary, but she's afraid of him. "Yes, I'm not a very pretty sight at the moment, but I don't bite," he says. Mary accuses him of being nothing but a bandit and moves back to where the boat was moored, but it's floated away.



“Significant piece of flotsam”- From the seaside cliffs, a wrecker notices the rowboat bouncing on the waves. He signals another wrecker, who signals several more. “A very significant piece of flotsam, eh?” one of them asks before the youngest notices the cave where it must have been moored. The leader of the group asks two of them to row out and inspect the boat and another to find some rope before taking the rest of the group to a spot closer to the cave. The two men board a rowboat and fight their way through the high tide toward the abandoned one.



Coming down- Jem calmly explains to Mary that they’re trapped until low tide when they’ll have to make a run for it. In a somewhat insulting and roundabout way, he thanks Mary for saving his life and pledges to help her out of the situation. Jem begins musing about his life, listing things he could do instead of wrecking, but Mary isn’t interested. A book dangles from a rope above them as they argue when they’re interrupted by some whistling. The wreckers look down from above. “Take the little book,” one of them calls down, “There’s a beautiful hymn on page thirteen—
While at death’s door I trembling stand—It’s very comforting.” The wreckers soon decide to climb down after them.



A quick dip- Trapped with the wreckers descending upon them, Jem makes a quick decision. He is able to batter one of the wreckers against the side of the cave and render him unconscious long enough for he and Mary to escape by sea. He says they need to strip down so as not to drown. Mary is unwilling at first but complies quickly when Jem threatens to undress her himself. Several wreckers cling to the rope as the others lower them down, arguing about what to do with Mary and Jem once they capture them. Jem pulls Mary into the water and they seem to disappear. The two wreckers in the rowboat float past, surveying everything they can see. Jem and Mary remain just out of sight, clutching one of the rocks that make the Cornish coast so treacherous.



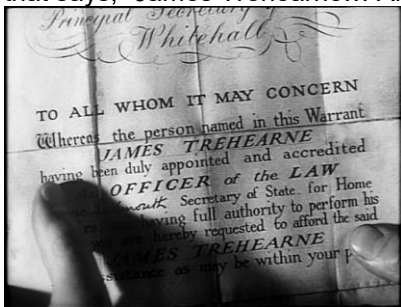
Accounting- Several people stand before a desk inside Pengallan's mansion. The Squire calls to one, asking why he's three pounds short. The man explains that the shortage is due to his son's leg being injured. Pengallan tells the man to see his personal doctor about the boy's leg and to bring the missing money next time. His accountant protests, worried about the state of Pengallan's finances, but the Squire refuses to hear it, insulting the accountant's heritage.



Pengallan's help- Mary and Jem run along the windy moors, soaking wet. They seem unsure of where to go when Mary points out Pengallan's mansion in the distance. "He'd be glad to help us," says Mary. Meanwhile, the action continues in Pengallan's lands. One man has a complaint that sees him banished from Pengallan's lands. The next caller is an old woman who needs help replacing her roof. As his oldest tenant, Pengallan demands that she be "snug" when the accountant clutches the purse strings. Amid his conversation with the old woman, Mary and Jem enter the house. Pengallan orders Chadwick to fetch them some clothes, leading the duo towards a fire so they can warm themselves.



An officer of the Law- Mary introduces Jem and shares a brief version of their escape from Jamaica Inn, but Pengallan insists they change into dry clothes first. Mary is whisked away by one of Pengallan's female servants while. In a nearby parlor, two men drink at a table. Pengallan greets them and invites them to dinner, but the naval officers say they must regretfully return to their ship. Jem barges in, demanding a word with Pengallan in private. "There's nothing you can tell me these gentlemen shouldn't know," Pengallan replies, but he changes his mind when Jem shows him an official-looking piece of paper that says, "James Trehearne... An officer of the law."



Pengallan's study- Dismissing his naval friends, Pengallan leads James Trehearne to another room. Chadwick approaches them, saying he has beer and bread for James in another room. Pengallan demands the butler add more lavish food and bring fresh clothes for his guest. In the study, Pengallan pours brandy as James informs the Squire of his background and mission in Cornwall. Pengallan tries not to react as the undercover agent explains just how much London knows about the wrecking conspiracy, saying they figured out something must be going on because of how many recent wrecks along the coast had no survivors. "Mr. Trehearne," Pengallan says with mock concern, "if what you tell me is true, it's the most dreadful thing I've ever heard."



A note to Captain Boyle- One of the naval officers from before interrupts the conversation to bid Pengallan farewell. When he returns, Chadwick has served James a tray of food. Pengallan listens as James explains the situation at the Jamaica Inn through mouthfuls of chicken. The squire eventually asks if James has reported anything to his superiors, to which James replies, "No." Pengallan listens to James a while longer, asking a few more questions until the wind picks up outside. James mentions that Joss is awaiting orders for tonight's wreck, and Pengallan hops to his feet, saying they must act. He offers to write a letter, asking for help, to Captain Boyle at a nearby garrison. As James changes into fresh clothes, he helps Pengallan write the letter for one of his servants to take to the garrison. Then they prepare to catch the wreckers at the inn.



Eavesdropping- Mary exits a room, dry and wearing an ornate dress. She overhears someone talking and moves closer to the study door. She opens the door and is surprised to see James dictating a letter to Sir Pengallan. She closes the door before anyone notices and listens to James' plan. Mary is shocked to hear James is an officer of the law and that he "has enough evidence to hang" everyone at the Jamaica Inn. She moves to hide behind a pillar as the two men are about to leave. James stops Pengallan for a moment, saying, "The girl, Miss Yellen, she mustn't know about this." Her devotion to her aunt could ruin their plan to capture the wreckers.



Saving Aunt Patience- Before they leave, Pengallan orders a servant to ride to the nearby garrison to deliver the letter. As the two men await the carriage at the mansion's front steps, a confused-looking stable hand approaches. Pengallan demands his coach, to which the boy answers, "The young lady came round the back and took it, sir. She said you had ordered it for her, sir." As the two men wait for their horses to be saddled, Mary is already back at the inn. In one of the halls, she begs her aunt to come with her as there's little time. "That man I cut down was a law officer," she says. "He's on his way here now with Sir Humphrey." But Patience refuses to leave Joss to be captured, and Joss himself is incensed, demanding to know where James is. The conversation is interrupted by a heavy knock on the door.



Trehearne's inspection- James beats on the door with the butt of his pistol as Joss lights a lantern inside. Just as he greets Mary, Joss opens the door with pistol drawn. James and Pengallan await him with their pistols drawn as well. As James inspects nearby rooms for other wreckers, Pengallan makes faces at Joss, signing for silence with his pistol. Overhearing the conversation, Mary and Patience appear. Mary confronts James about his deception and the men order Joss upstairs. Mary then turns to her aunt, questioning why she didn't turn Joss in before. "People can't help being what they are. Joss can't. I can't," Patience replies.



Private orders- James demands that Joss open a door upstairs. Inside, he's sure he's found the mastermind's private room. Stolen goods litter the tables, a signal candle waits in the window, and a bloody strip of silk lies on the floor. Pengallan leaves to open the door at the end of the hall, and James takes a moment to interrogate Joss. "Who comes to the inn?" he asks. "Would you like to know?" replies Joss, "I'll tell you. Santa Claus. Every Christmas." Pengallan returns and tells James to take care of the women. Alone with Joss, Pengallan takes a moment to give him his orders. The naval officers he entertained earlier are due to pass nearby at approximately nine that night with a shipload of gold. He needs the money, he says. "I'm going to take a little holiday. I advise you to do the same." He orders Joss to have the wrecked goods ready for his trip to France.



A name for the warrant- Downstairs, Mary confronts James once more: "If this is what saving your life has brought us all to, I wish..." "You don't think I'm enjoying this?" he interrupts, closing the two women in a nearby room as laughter echoes through the halls. It's Pengallan. Upon entering the room, James asks if anything is wrong, and the Squire replies that Joss made a joke. James tells Joss he's only got one chance left to save himself by naming his boss. Pengallan unfolds and presents a warrant: "I took the precaution of bringing this warrant for the fellow's apprehension," he says. "His name will have to be filled in later when we know it." In continuing his interrogation, Pengallan becomes offended at James' portrayal of the conspiracy's ringleader. He asks James what type of man he thinks must be behind this, aiming his pistol at James' back once he turns.



Overpowered- There's a sound from downstairs, and James rushes downstairs to confront the wreckers. The criminals are gathered in the large parlor, laughing and pouring drinks. "Stay where you are," James barks as he levels his pistol at them. One of the wreckers slams the door on James, causing his pistol to fire it's only shot. His only advantage gone, the wreckers rush and overpower him, wrestling the weapon from him as he shouts a warning to Pengallan. Pengallan and Joss quickly cook up an act, Joss forcing the Squire down the stairs at gunpoint. The criminals force the two men into the parlor, angry and prepared for violence.



Execution deferred- "We'll make a real job of it this time," promises one of the wreckers, remembering James' escape from the noose. Joss utters a warning, saying killing a law officer and a justice of the peace in the inn would blow their cover if anyone found the bodies. He suggests that they remain imprisoned to be disposed of after tonight's wreck. The wreckers make quick work, binding James and Pengallan to a pair of chairs. "Do you think I came here just for you?" James says as he struggles. "I told you, there's somebody behind Joss." The wreckers don't believe him, taunting James and Pengallan about all the ways they could meet their impending death when they return. Joss trusts Patience to guard the lawmen while the wreckers make their way to the coast.



“What happened to the military?”- Unwilling but unshakably loyal to her husband, Patience holds James and Pengallan at gunpoint. “What’s happened to the military,” James says in a near panic. “Where the devil are they?” “This is very annoying,” muses the Squire. “I told Chadwick I’d be back for dinner.” He then addresses Patience, saying her gun probably isn’t loaded properly and asking to take a look at it for her. When James comments that the ruse won’t work, Pengallan simply lifts his hands, the ropes around him falling to the floor. He loads the gun for Mrs. Merlyn, threatening to kill her husband if she doesn’t keep James prisoner. James shouts that Pengallan will never get away with it as the military is on its way. “There is no Captain Boyle,” says Pengallan. “In consequence, there’ll be no military.” The door slams as he leaves.



Wreckers at work- The wreckers take up their positions behind the rocks and ready their cart as the sea rages and the wind howls. Mary sits in the back of the cart, clutching a cloak tightly against the wind as Joss jumps out. He orders a man up to the beacon and scampers up the hillside. A wrecker approaches Mary, asking if she’d like him to bring her back some jewelry from the wreck. Joss passes, ordering a man to keep watch over Mary. Above them, the beacon is lowered and hidden behind a rock.



Moral dilemma- Still trapped at Jamaica Inn, James pleads with Patience to let him go. “Where is the wreck going to be?” he asks, but Patience doesn’t know. He reminds her of the blood that will be on her hands. “You love your husband, I know that. And I know it’s my duty to take him if I can,” says James. “But the men on that ship have wives, too. Think of yourself if Joss was on board.” Shaken by this dilemma and his graphic description of the last moments aboard a wrecked ship, Patience runs from the room, slumping down against the stairs. They go back and forth for a moment, James reminding Patience that the choice is between one life and many. Unable to move forward, the desperate officer of the law begins to strike a bargain.



Hoisting the beacon- The wreckers look out to sea as the storm grows fiercer while James hurries across the moors to find them. Luckily, he's able to commandeer a passing carriage in the name of the law, speeding his pursuit. Joss is the first to sight the ship floundering in the distance. The wreckers wipe the brine from their eyes, watching patiently. Seeing her captors distracted, Mary takes a risk, following the little trail up the cliffside to the beacon. She sees the lantern hidden behind a rock and stealthily carries it to the post where it usually hangs. The wrecker nearby sees her, however, and tackles her, knocking her and the lantern to the ground. In the struggle, Mary pushes the wrecker over the cliff. She turns to find her cloak on fire, burning brighter than the beacon. She hoists it, and the ship turns northward toward safety.



Bandit's rage- Watching the boat turn, it doesn't take long for the wreckers to realize what has happened. One of them grabs Mary and drags her back down to the beach as the others taunt and jeer. "All right, Joss. You leave her to us," says one, staring at Mary menacingly. "We'll manage very nicely. Thank you." He tears her dress and another wrecker grabs her, but Joss steps in, protecting her. The wreckers are incensed, saying she robbed them of their biggest haul yet. "Robbed you? Thank heavens!" Mary says from the back of the cart. "I'm glad. I don't care what happens." Joss yells at Mary to shut her mouth as he jumps into the cart and urges the horses on. A wrecker takes a shot and Joss slumps down as the cart rattles up the incline.



Pengallan's escape- In front of the mansion, a carriage waits. Pengallan exits the home, telling Chadwick, "I don't know how long my business will take me." Another servant approaches, confused. He says he couldn't find anyone because the regiment at Truro had left some weeks earlier. Pengallan takes the letter and tears it into pieces after the servant asks if he should try another garrison. As Pengallan boards the carriage, Chadwick asks if he's feeling well. Pengallan is offended by the question and asks the stablemaster to keep an eye on Chadwick as "his mind's going." Chadwick shakes his head as the carriage rattles away and says, "I've seen that coming along for years."



Joss injured- “Aunt Patience!” Mary cries as the wagon pulls up to Jamaica Inn. Barely on his feet, the two women help Joss inside. “Joss saved me,” Mary tells her aunt as they stumble inside. Joss seems to get worse as they find their way to a seat by the fireplace. He groans as Patience removes his coat. “Patience, my dear,” he whispers, laying his head against her, “You’re a good girl, Patience. I’m sorry.” Mary and Patience begin to treat Joss’ wound, talking as they do. “Where’s Jem?” Mary asks. “I set him free,” replies Patience.



Patience’s fantasy- “He promised me he’d let Joss escape,” Patience says, explaining her deal with James. “You know what that means. We can leave here. We can leave here together, Joss and I.” Mary remains quiet, pouring alcohol onto a rag. Patience, however, keeps chattering, wide-eyed: “Mary, we’ll begin again. Think of it. To be able to live without fear.” Joss begins to cough and wince in pain. “He’s strong,” continues Patience, almost pleading, “He’ll soon get better, won’t he?” She says that “Joss mustn’t be here when James gets back.” Mary is confused. “I didn’t know myself until tonight, but I’ve always known Joss wasn’t his own master,” Patience continues.



“Good clean shot”- “Tonight I found out who that boss is,” Patience says. She also warns her niece: “Mary, it’s...” Before she can finish, a gunshot rings out. Patience slumps to the floor, dead. Mary rushes to help her, but it’s too late. Joss sits up, asking for a drink. Mary pours him one, tipping the cup to his lips. It seems he dies before he can swallow as the drink dribbles over his chin and he too slumps over. Mary shrieks before locking eyes with Pengallan standing in the doorway. “A good clean shot, wasn’t it?” He says and takes her captive, binding her hands and gagging her. He promises to make her a princess when they reach France as he covers her in a cloak and pushes her toward the carriage.



Wreckers return- A crowd of men comes up the road outside Jamaica Inn. The wreckers stop, seeing two figures exit. “Sir Humphrey,” one whispers. “And the girl’s with him.” “What about Joss?” another asks as they rush inside. They find James missing, and it doesn’t take long to find Joss and Patience dead in the next room. The leader of the group seems tense. “What are you all standing there for? Get out!” he shouts, “Don’t keep together. Scatter.”



The boy’s plea- The wreckers scatter as they’re told, but it’s too late. Carbine-wielding soldiers burst into the inn, barking orders and detaining the wreckers one by one. James is among them. He grabs one of the wreckers by the collar, asking where Mary is. “She’s gone and found herself another gentleman,” the wrecker teases. “I just seen her sneaking off alone with His Worship.” James takes a few men and horses to chase Pengallan while the other soldiers manacle the wreckers’ wrists. The youngest among them seems proud to be treated the same as the others, but the manacles don’t fit. He struggles for a moment, saying he wants to be treated just like them, but it dawns on him and begins to panic, “I don’t want to hang. I don’t want to die. Not yet.” The camera pans past the solemn-looking wreckers as the boy continues to shout, “I’m only a boy. I’m only seventeen!”



“One must have money”- Pengallan’s carriage rolls across the moors. Inside, Mary sits, bound and scared. Pengallan looks self-assured beside her on the seat. “There’s my house,” he says, pointing with his gun. “The Pengallans have been there a long time. I may never see it again. Because, you see, we may never be able to come back.” Talking mostly to himself, he assures Mary that they have enough money to make the voyage. “I always knew that to live like a gentleman,” he continues, “spaciously and with elegance, one must have money.” Mary glares at him silently.



A ship to France- James and his backup arrive at Pengallan's mansion. He jumps from his horse and pounds on the door. Chadwick answers, saying Pengallan is "away on business." With a little prodding, and knowing the Squire is not well, Chadwick tells them that Sir Humphrey is taking the Falmouth night packet to St-Malo. Ships' bells ring in a harbor as Pengallan walks Mary up a gangway. Because of his status, no one questions Mary's presence or why she is gagged. In a private cabin below deck, Pengallan excuses his actions while supporting the wreckers. "It had to be done," he says, sipping brandy, "Half my friends living like paupers. But I'm living like a prince. Drowned hundreds of sailors to do it," he brags. The gangway is cast off and the ship begins to list out of the harbor.



Hostage situation- As the ship begins to float away, Sir Humphrey undoes Mary's gag. She begins sobbing. "Stop crying! Stop it, you little fool!" he shouts at her. "Be beautiful! Hard as nails if you like, but you must be beautiful." James and his soldiers appear by the quayside, demanding the ship come back to port. "Troopers," Pengallan gasps, looking at Mary "They may be coming for you." Mary makes a break for it, but she doesn't get far. Pengallan makes his way onto the deck, brandishing his pistol as the crowd around the ship clamors. Despite being held hostage, Mary shouts for the soldiers to back off when a sniper takes aim: "No, don't shoot. He can't help himself! He doesn't know what he's doing! He's mad, I tell you! Mad!"



"Give me room"- Finding himself surrounded, Pengallan gives up Mary, pushing her into James' arms and flinging himself up onto the rigging before anyone can grab him. He climbs up as high as he can. "Come down, Sir Humphrey, and give yourself up!" calls James, "You'll not be harmed, I promise you!" "I shall be down to you before you're up to me, Mr. Trehearne," replies Pengallan. "If you'll be kind enough to give me room." Sailors and soldiers swarm up the rigging, going after him. He looks back down at the deck. "What are you all waiting for? A spectacle?" the Squire shouts from the crossbeam, "You shall have it. Make way for Pengallan!" He jumps and plummets to the deck, a long way below. Everyone screams and the camera finds Chadwick among the crowd. Faintly, he can hear his master calling, "Chadwick!"



THEMES

SOCIETY

Class- Class also plays a major role in *Jamaica Inn*. Pengallan's perceived loss of social status leads him to drastic and murderous measures when he assists Joss and his wreckers, providing them with the location and timetables of passing ships. Pengallan also acts as their fence, collecting and selling the stolen goods after each wreck. This allows him to control the purse strings of the entire operation and cover the illicit elements of his scheme with his nobility and position as a justice of the peace: no one expects the law to be corrupt. This is the mistake made by James and Mary, who explain their plans to the very mastermind they seek to destroy. Their misplaced trust in high-class authority causes James and Mary to fall into the wrecker's captivity. The low-class status of the wreckers is also explored in depth. One of Joss' first comments about the other wreckers is to chastise one of them for abusing his literacy and misleading the illiterate members of the group. This, among other small details, shows that the men all come from poor backgrounds.

Toward the film's end, we can see the somewhat contradictory nature of Pengallan when he addresses the various tenants and callers who have arrived at his manor. Two of them, who show meekness and 'know their place,' are given more time to pay their debts and get a new roof, while an angry man is dismissed for 'not knowing his place.'

Pengallan's world is a series of positions and titles, a pre-modern aristocracy. Were he not meant to be great and his tenants peasants, they would both have been born into different families. This is not to say he accepts no responsibility for his tenants. Pengallan argues openly and loudly with his butler and his accountant about the cost of his hospitality and responsibilities to his tenants. It is his job, he believes, to care for those under him as a father would for a child. Pengallan serves as a vehicle to explore the beliefs of the age of chivalry, a bygone era of which he claims to be the last true follower when he jumps to his death. Although twisted by his madness, he holds to his beliefs, providing one last service for the lower-class people in the harbor: a 'spectacle.'

Gender- Gender is also important, as we would expect in a film based on a romantic novel written by a woman in the 1930s. Masculinity and femininity are present in *Jamaica Inn* in several forms. Even the most minor characters have intense characterization that often includes their views about gender in some way. Harry, the whistling second-in-command of the wreckers, sees women as sexual objects. He makes veiled, lewd comments about Joss' wife, wants to get his hands on Mary after a single glance, and threatens to sexually assault her after she raises the beacon on the cliffs. Salvation, the old Bible-loving wrecker, acts as his foil, scoffing at the young man's behavior and quoting scriptures and hymns about gentility. One thing that ties the wreckers together is their rough nature, portrayed as typically masculine. They seemingly take any excuse for a chance to fight. More obviously, Joss's and Patience's relationship is the major portrayal and critique of gender roles. The abusive husband openly berates and threatens his wife, even scaring and threatening his wife's niece, Mary, when she first comes to the inn. Patience's dotting loyalty toward Joss is misplaced, both to the viewer and her niece. Patience represents the old ideals of womanhood that they should be faithful and obedient to their husbands to the point of death. This is the fate that awaits Patience, as her shock at Joss' injury consumes her before she can warn Mary about Pengallan's role in the conspiracy.

Mary's and James' relationship is the opposite, representing newer ideals of women's independence. Mary is outspoken, quick to act, and unwilling to be tied down by unworthy loyalties. It takes James quite some time to earn Mary's trust, and even then, she is quick to revoke her loyalty when she learns that her aunt's life could be in danger from James' investigation. Mary is her own woman and makes decisions based on her own needs and beliefs.

Pengallan, fueled by his growing madness, is a caricature of old patriarchal ideals. He is obsessed with his family legacy though he's never had an heir and believes strong male figures should be in charge and unequivocally respected. One of his first lines is mocking George IV for his lack of a spine: Pengallan

says George is no longer a “gentleman” but instead “a painted bag of maraschino and plum pudding.” Other small examples arise throughout the film, showing this minor theme’s potency in the plot.

JUSTICE

Justice/Injustice- *Jamaica Inn* is filled with the interplay between justice and injustice, sometimes in surprising ways. The main plot of the film is straightforward. The wreckers’ activities are a grave injustice: theft and slaughter for profit. This makes the criminals the obvious antagonists. Pengallan would have been less obvious had actor and producer Charles Laughton not demanded a rewrite, giving him more screen time than the original story called for. His acts of injustice are portrayed as more vile than those of the wreckers. He states several times that he doesn’t care about the death of low-class sailors so long as the riches keep rolling in, whereas the wreckers act out of economic desperation. James poses as a wrecker to uncover the conspiracy and discover who is behind it. In order to do that, he must himself act like a criminal. His experience shows us the complex scenarios that unfold when seeking justice. The burden of proof is on the law, and sometimes criminal acts must be observed instead of stopped to prove guilt. James’ search for justice leads him to unwittingly expose his plan to the conspiracy’s leader: Pengallan. Using his position of trust and power, Pengallan seeks to usurp justice, imprisoning James and attempting to escape with what remains of the ill-gotten treasure.

Mary, too, has a complicated relationship with justice. She circumvents the law when she steals Pengallan’s carriage to warn her aunt Patience, telling Joss of James’ plans in the act. The grave injustice of wrecking ships and killing sailors, however, leads Mary to risk her life hoisting the beacon. When the wreckers are captured, they are sure to face the hangman for their crimes. The youngest among them realizes this and pleads for mercy as he’s never murdered anyone. We see Joss keeping him from the fray during their final attempt at wrecking when he sends the boy to lower the beacon. Although some of the wreckers meet justice, Joss and Patience are murdered. Pengallan also escapes justice through death by throwing himself from the top of a ship’s crossbeam.

FLAWS

Greed- Greed is another major theme of *Jamaica Inn*. Greed drives Pengallan to send Joss and his men to wreck and then rob ships with valuable cargo. For some unstated reason, his estate has fallen into near poverty and he sees the wreckers as a tool to regain his familial wealth. Joss and the other wreckers say they’re guided by economic need, but that’s a flimsy excuse for most of them. It seems many among their number enjoy murder. Harry, second in command of the wreckers, wants to make a show out of killing James, and Joss and the others seem unaffected by committing multiple murders during the film’s first scenes. Desperation will drive a man to steal while greed is one of the more common motives for murder. Pengallan’s greed extends to people as well. It’s not clear when he plans his abduction of Mary, possibly during their first meeting. He doesn’t care about Mary’s desires or her fear of him, he only wants her for himself, and for her to be beautiful. These comments may arise out of his madness, but, as with his other crazed comments, it seems he speaks some emotional truth.

CHARACTER ANALYSIS

Sir Humphrey Pengallan

Pengallan is an intriguing antagonist. He is a flamboyant nobleman and a justice of the peace. Despite this -or perhaps because of this- he utilizes his position to assist the wreckers in their bloody work, taking most of their haul as compensation. In many other ways, Pengallan is a walking contradiction.

Planner Pengallan, despite his descent into madness, has a penchant for crafting plans. His initial plan of providing targets for the wreckers is good: even though the crown takes notice, not even James, their investigator, thinks Pengallan could be involved because of his nobility. When Mary makes an unexpected appearance, Pengallan rolls with it, never exposing his role in the plot. Even as she and James make problems for him, Pengallan quickly creates new plans, sharing them with Joss in private. His planning also exposes his manipulative side. Joss, the other wreckers, and even James are pawns in

his game. While James' investigation may have forced Pengallan's hand, it seems he was never interested in protecting Joss or the wreckers, taking all the spoils and fleeing for the continent.

Unstable Instability is a key trait of this man. Much of the most thrilling elements of the movie rely on his descent into madness, just like his grandfather before him. Even without his madness, he is prone to moodiness. His constant demands on his butler, and the way he openly insults both his dinner guests and the king, show how much of his persona is a façade. While Pengallan claims to be a gentleman, he acts more like a petulant child, driven to outbursts, especially when money is mentioned. His instability only grows as the film continues, ending in his suicide. It's not entirely clear whether Pengallan understands exactly what he's doing when he commits suicide, making his demise surprisingly sympathetic. It didn't have to end like this.

Friendly Despite all of Pengallan's flaws, he seems genuinely friendly at times. Upon losing a bet at the beginning of the film, he almost joyfully throws his purse to the winner. He takes an immediate interest in Mary and goes as far as personally escorting her to Jamaica Inn. During one of Pengallan's earliest outbursts, he immediately apologizes to Chadwick, not only for the outburst but most of his recent behavior. We see this trait most clearly when he is dealing with his tenants' issues. The man who owes him a debt is given an extension and offered the services of a doctor to treat his son's injured leg, the cause of the missing cash. Likewise, Pengallan spares no expense to repair his oldest tenant's roof when she complains: "As long as I am here," he says, "she shall be snug." These contradictions in his personality represent an idealized form of the old nobility. Even in his madness, he is trying to help those he is responsible for. Their care is his duty, even if he must murder to fund it.

Mary Yellen

Mary is a young woman from Ireland, recently orphaned and seeking her last living relative, Patience. She finds her way to the Jamaica Inn but nothing there is what she expected. Her actions save the lives of many sailors and help bring the wreckers to justice.

Brave Mary is incredibly brave. We see this first when she seeks out the help of Pengallan. She is polite, but willful, locking eyes with Pengallan as he inspects her like a mare. Mary's courage shows strongly when she faces down Joss and his pistol without so much as squirming, and throughout her initial visit to the inn she continues to hound him about his treatment of Patience. Despite being violently threatened, Mary is willing to stand up for what is right. This trait reappears when she steals Pengallan's carriage to warn Patience of the coming raid, then again when she hoists her burning cloak as a beacon. Recaptured by the wreckers, she rubs their noses in her deeds: "I'm glad! I don't care what happens!" Her bravery and strong values make the young woman appear a lioness among jackals.

Spontaneous While spontaneity can be a flaw, this doesn't seem to be the case for Mary. She's quick with an idea and even more quick to act. Her quick thinking saves James from hanging at the inn and taking a chance to escort him outside while the wreckers fight over his shoe buckles allows him to escape undetected. It also saves her when he returns the favor, hiding her on the roof as the wreckers scour the grounds below them. When she overhears James' plan to arrest everyone at Jamaica Inn, she quickly steals the Squire's carriage to warn her aunt. Her attempt to raise the beacon is spontaneous and well worth the risk. Her ability to take advantage of an opportunity never stops as she screams from the ship window when she sees James on the quay and even manages to slip away from Pengallan for a moment.

Angry While righteously outraged, Mary is often swayed by anger. We see this first when the coach driver gives her an obvious warning about Jamaica Inn. While it's understandable that she wants to see Patience, she's so angry about being dropped off half a mile down the road from the inn that she can't consider the strange behavior of everyone in the coach when she mentioned Jamaica Inn. She's mad at James when she wakes up in the sea cave, so much so that she attempts to escape and insults him even after he's tried to save her. Similarly, she allows anger to cloud her judgment about James when he reveals himself to be an 'officer of the law'. Instead of bargaining with him, she rushes to warn her aunt, potentially jeopardizing his entire operation when she tells Joss as well. It's a strange reaction that leads

her to show James as much hatred as the wreckers when he reveals that he's an undercover operative. Being lied to causes lapses in her judgment because it makes her angry.

James 'Jem' Trehearne

James is first introduced to us as 'Jem,' a common criminal. After Mary helps him escape the noose, we learn that he is an officer of the law. He was undercover trying to find the true ringleader of the wreckers along the Cornish coast.

Trusting Despite being an undercover operative, James is almost comically trusting at times. At the beginning of the film, he tries to reason with the wreckers, trusting them to release him once they learn of the scheme. However, James doesn't realize the power of Joss' personality over the criminals. Trusting the wreckers to make up their own minds about the situation nearly ends in his death by hanging. Similarly, James places a large amount of trust in Pengallan. This may seem odd to us these days, but James wasn't trained to suspect nobility in such schemes, especially not a justice of the peace.

Confident James has an air of confidence around him one would expect of an undercover operative. It doesn't fade even after the wrecker's attempt to murder him. Although he and Mary are cornered, James taunts the wreckers and even renders one unconscious by bashing him against the side of the cave. We see James' confidence most after he reveals himself to Pengallan, which puts him and Mary in considerable danger, but his confidence in his abilities allows him to talk Patience into releasing him. This trait emerges comically at times, such as when one of Pengallan's guests recognizes his outfit on James. James simply states that Pengallan is a criminal and rides off, far too confident in his position and mission to argue about to whom the coat and trousers belong.

Suspicious Unlike most of Hitchcock's thrillers, here the protagonist is the one to reveal he is undercover. Because of rewrites, Pengallan's role in the conspiracy is shown to us almost immediately, but it's halfway into the film that we learn James' true role among the wreckers as an undercover operative for the crown. In a conversation with Pengallan, James reveals that he has been with the wreckers for nearly two months. He has been unwilling to murder, only helping to cart the goods away after the wrecks. Perhaps this reluctance to kill strikes the others as odd and leads them to turn on him when Joss finds that he has nearly 15 pounds worth of gold coin in his purse. While he fails to bring the wreckers to justice with his undercover work, with the help of the military, he eventually uncovers Pengallan's scheme and takes the wreckers into custody.

Patience Merlyn

Patience is Mary's aunt, but first and foremost she is Joss' wife. Her unwavering devotion confuses Mary, to whom her husband's abuse seems obvious.

Patient Patience is much like her namesake. She takes things slowly for the most part and always seems to be waiting on someone or preparing for Joss' return. We've all heard that 'patience is a virtue,' but Aunt Patience shows us how patience can be abused. In a conversation with Mary, she says she's been waiting on Joss to love her since Mary was a little girl and still holds hope that he will. When Joss is shot, Patience has a small breakdown, imagining a future where he and she are happy in another place where nobody knows them. This long-held-patience-induced daydream keeps her from warning Mary about Pengallan's involvement until it's too late, allowing him to line up his "nice clean shot," ending her life.

Loyal Patience is incredibly loyal, though she's placed her trust in the wrong man. She is visibly and vocally torn between Mary and Joss at several points in the film. The family bond between Patience and her niece is strong, but her old-fashioned beliefs about love and marriage bind her to Joss, even as he murders for a living and abuses her. Strangely enough, it's her loyalty to Joss that allows James to escape when he pleads with her to consider the many hundreds of women just like her, all waiting for their Joss to come home after his sea voyage, and how that will never happen if she allows Joss to wreck the ship. Ever loyal, she dies beside her husband, shot as she tends to his wounds.

Joss Merlyn

Joss is the iron-willed leader of the wreckers. He is an angry man with a violent temper. Although he is an antagonist, he has a change of heart at the film's end.

Selfish Joss is nothing if not selfish. Even through his violence and chauvinism, we can see the root of his behavior is insatiable greed. He takes a larger share of the spoils for enacting Pengallan's scheme, helping the nobleman to use his loyal friends as bandits and murderers, paying them less than their cut to fill Pengallan's coffers. He wants to bed Mary before he learns she's his wife's niece and still acts possessive when Harry expresses his interest in the young woman. His selfishness shows in his treatment of Patience as he barks orders at her like a servant. The one time he acts selflessly, he loses the loyalty of his wreckers and is shot in the back but saves Mary from their rage.

Unfriendly On three separate occasions, Joss opens the front door of the inn with a loaded pistol in hand. If he had any pleasant personality traits his unfriendly attitude might be comic. But Joss' rudeness and violent nature continue throughout the film. He seems to try to intimidate and berate nearly everyone he talks to. Only Pengallan, a boss who demands respect, is shown kind treatment by Joss throughout the film. To the wreckers and the women, Joss is a tyrant with a short temper, but with Pengallan, he is a timid servant. Blinded by greed and frightened by the potential loss of income, Joss seems to forget himself around Pengallan and become a different man altogether.