

# The Untold Truth of Captain Hook

**Cast Note:** This is a one-man show. All lines and narration in the script are performed by the actor. Parts of the dialogue may be replaced by action once rehearsal progresses, to better show than tell.

**Setting:** The sound of a creaky wooden ship on the ocean. There are clocks everywhere you look, defining the play space, and creating the illusion of a room. The floor is an old fashioned, sepia toned, world map. This is a round, painted travel floor. Every flat surface has some kind of clock or watch on it as well. It's clear that the owner of this place is obsessed with time, or at least has an unhealthy clock obsession. All the clocks work, but none are set to the same time, except for a matching pair upstage center. Not a single clock is ever correct. There is a man cleaning and winding the clocks. He is not addressing the audience, but talking to the objects the room, almost like he is trying to remind himself of a story he is afraid will be forgotten. He clearly loves the objects and treats each like an old friend. He mumbles to himself and takes his time with his "friends." When he reaches a large grandfather clock that has stopped, he pulls out a key and winds it. Once it starts to move and chime, he begins to speak.

(PART 1 – The part where we meet the happy family - THE INTRODUCTION)

(Mr. Smee enters holding a candle - examining clocks and opens the one that will be the water, and sets the time, so we see that it's real. He checks the clocks against the multiple pocket watches he has in his waistcoat. This whole process is set to music, almost like a dance that he does daily. The first lines are spoken to himself with his back turned to the audience.)

Lost boys, pirates, Indians, mermaids, and fairies. You may know the facts, but I know the truth.

(include audience in story now. Indicates clock down stage right)

A man,  
A good man  
John  
a man, with a big heart. Big, but empty.  
Empty until he fell madly in love with

(indicate clock down stage left)

A woman,  
a beautiful, happy woman.  
Lilly  
A woman full of imagination and daring

A woman whose smile, whose smile went so far past her eyes it filled up the empty space in John's big heart

Lilly and John, madly in love, head over heels in love, disgustingly, sickeningly, kissy faced, and publicly in love. (shudders with a wink)

The proud parents of two boys,  
Twins,  
identical in every way but spirit.

(upstage center)

Peter,  
the youngest by one minute, (moves hand on clock)  
a handful from the second he came into the world. Chock full of adventure and imagination, just like his mother. Peter, being the younger, loved... and loved to annoy, his older brother...

James,  
Older by one whole minute, but a one minute can make all the difference in the world.  
(moves clock hand forward)

A serious and unimaginative boy, but a big heart like his father, whom he adored.  
James being the older was annoyed by but was fiercely protective of his baby brother.

Our family, a poor, but happy family.

Whose days were filled with joy, and their nights were filled with laughter.  
Every night, like clockwork, John would tuck his boys into bed, so tight they couldn't move their arms.

PETER

I can't move my arms! or breath.

JOHN

Sweet Dreams my boys and remember you can make those dreams come true if you have the courage to chase them. Sleep well and when the alarm clock rings, I'll be there when you wake.

And he always was. Every single time.

Every single night, Lilly came in to the boys with a story. For Lilly told the best stories, full of adventure, daring and danger. Everything a young boy could want.

LILLY

What shall it be tonight boys? Brave sea captains, falling in love with beautiful mermaids, or evil pirates kidnapping a princess, maybe, hidden islands yet to be discovered filled with sprites and fairies, just waiting to steal away naughty young boys who sneak out of bed.

But all her stories had one thing in common, a happy ending. For Lilly knew that all good stories needed a happy ending... (tongue in cheek)

(PART 2 – The part where you think something good happens - THE INCITING INCIDENT)

(An alarm clock rings – Smee is reluctant to move on to the next part because he knows what is coming. Mysterious not ominous)

A letter, this letter  
Full of such promise, and yet...

(he pulls the letter from the envelope and blows on it. Small bits of paper fly out when he blows. The sound of his blowing is turned into the ocean breeze and continues. He listened for a second before continuing. He almost comments on each new revelation, without actually speaking, all in the reactions. He is interested as well)

Dear Lilly,  
Your uncle has died.

(Sound of seagulls add to soundtrack. The sailor listens to each new sound)

Your uncle has died. In his will he has left you a castle.

(he begins folding the letter into a ship, the creaking ship sounds join the soundtrack as well)

Your uncle has died. In his will he has left you a castle. With the instructions to take a ship and sail north at once. With the instructions to take a ship and sail North at once... And so, they did.

(he pulls the porthole clock off the wall and sets it on the table. The clock fills with water. He puts his hand in it and pulls some up, so the audience can see the water as well. He floats the boat on the water)

And with that, our family was off on an adventure.

(Smee picks up the clock and makes the boat sail around in it)

John's heart was filled near to bursting with the joy he felt on the sea. The fresh air had quite an effect on him, causing some unexplained flexing in the chest and arm areas. James was thrilled to see his father so happy. And to top it all off, On calm days, his father let James steer the ship. (amazed face followed by \*bell sound\* serious steering face)

JOHN

Steady on, James. Eyes forward my boy, you can't see where your going, by staring at where you've been. Point her to... the second star on the right.

JAMES

aye aye captain!

With every swell, James's confidence grew. He spent his days steering the ship, following his father's commands and worrying! Worrying about his brother Peter, because with each passing league Peter grew more and more adventurous, spending his days climbing the rigging and riding the sails in a way that looked far to dangerous for James's liking.

JAMES

Peter, hold on tight up there, there's a wave coming that I don't like the look of.

James was holding on tight enough for the both of them. While, Peter didn't seem to have a worry in the world.

JAMES

Peter, be careful.

PETER

You worry too much

JAMES

And you don't worry enough?

PETER

Alright, big brother, if you will be such a mother hen, perhaps I'll crow for you, so you know I'm safe.

(CROWING SOUND repeats in taunting fashion)

Like any good younger brother, Peter was really just hoping to annoy James, at least a little bit. And he did. But the truth of the thing was, James didn't really mind, because every time he heard Peter's crow, he knew at least his brother was safe, (after thought) annoying, but safe.

(NARRATOR blows on the boat again causing it to buck and shift like it's in a big storm. Once it settles down we hear the CROWING SOUND from Peter.)

JAMES

Good form, Peter. Good form (under breath).

Life was good...for a time. You see the sea is a harsh mistress, and for every gift it gives, it takes something in return.

So as the men of the ship felt a new found happiness blooming...below decks, fever was wilting poor Lilly. She was running out of time.

(pick up flower)

Lights slowly fade to the appropriate shade of sadness

The smile that couldn't be contained had turned into a grimace of pain and agony.

Perhaps the sea was jealous of her beauty; for with every wave and breeze, a little more of her seemed to disappear.

(Crush flower and blow bits away like snow )

(A clock starts a slow plaintive gonging. As the ship moves and wind blows, small bits of paper blow away – snow effect)

*(The chiming would continue between the lines. When it stops she is gone)*

*Stay with us my love,  
just one more day  
we have lifetimes yet to share  
Peter needs you  
James needs you  
I need you  
Please  
Stay (quiet)*

They buried her at sea.

Peter and James were heartbroken, but their father...their father was shattered.

(Smee looks over at the Fathers clock and the face shatters)

Lilly's death drilled a hole in his heart and he was taking on water.  
He sat frozen, staring out at the sea. Unwilling to move forward or back. Drifting, like the ship.

At night the boys waited, but nobody came to tuck them in. (wait)

There were no stories of pirates, or mermaids or fairies. And in the morning, (hopeful)  
In the morning... no one was there when they woke.

To make matters worse Peter was no longer ... Peter. He just sat and stared silently at the ocean with his father.

James, was in trouble! It was time to do something. He was going have to be the adult for now. (move clock hand forward) he would need to take control. (move clock hand another hour) be the man of the house (move clock hand two hours) to be responsible (move clock hand another hour)

So that night, at bedtime, James tucked in Peter.

(awkwardly but trying his best, after all he is still a child)

JAMES

There you go Peter, nice and tight. Just the way you like it. Now go to sleep.

PETER

Say it James. . I can't sleep unless you say it.

JAMES

Sweet dreams my brother, you can make those dreams come true if you have the courage to chase them.

PETER

I miss mother. Do you think she is with the mermaids?

JAMES

There is no such thi...(thinking better of telling him the truth)You know what, I think she is. As a matter of fact, I saw the faeries come and turn her into a mermaid. It's true, and anytime you miss her, you can visit the ocean and know she's there, just waiting until we're old enough to become sailors and be with her every day.

Peter's imagination grabbed hold of the lie and shaped it into a different kind of truth. But unfortunately for the boys, so did James.

Their father used the mermaid lie to fill the hole in his heart with hope. He became obsessed with nothing but the prospect of seeing his Lilly again. He should have known better. But, powerful as grief is, hope is even stronger. This hope of seeing Lilly again drove John mad.

So mad that it woke him from his stupor and caused him to make a new plan. A new and terrible plan.

So mad in fact, that he sailed the ship to the nearest port, and then, he set his sons ashore with a promise and a gift.

JOHN

Boys, I have find your mother. She's out there still, I can feel it. I'll find the mermaids and then return straight away to bring us back together—a family, I promise. (He picks up his most precious belonging, lovingly looking at it) Take this and wait right here. (Giving James the mother's clock) I'll return by the time the alarm rings.

(he starts to walk away and shouts back)

Boys you stick together, you hear me. You stick together and you will never know the pain of being alone.

And then he was gone.

(Smee stares at the fathers clock as the light in it slowly fades to half)

(The cuckoo clock goes off loudly. The man goes to clock and talks to bird)

Cuckoo, maybe, but don't judge so harshly, my feathery friend. Losing someone you love is a difficult thing indeed. James and Peter now had lost their mother and their father, and had no idea what to do next. They followed the only instructions they had, which were to wait. So they waited.

(smee sits and looks around to see where he is. He sets the mothers clock down on the bench next to him. It creates a shadow that becomes peter. So on the space behind him there are two shadows waiting)

They waited in front of Sister Mary's Home for Lost Boys.

(The clocks tick loudly. He sits on a bench to wait. He keeps looking at the brothers' clocks to see if they are going to do anything. He checks his watch, whistles, basically all the things you do waiting for someone to do something.)

They waited, and waited, and waited....

They waited, like you, to find out the rest of their story. I hope you enjoyed this excerpt. I look forward to chatting with you about potential opportunities to work together. There is a Danish language production available as well. I would be interested in producing this show in other languages as well.

All the best,  
David Morgan