

"There's your money!" shouted an angry voice. "Take it or leave it."

"I want to know what I'm fired for before I take it. You ditched me the last voyage, that's plain to me now. I thought maybe it was a accident—that you tried to get word to me ye was a-sailin' ahead o' time—but I know a sight better now."

"Well, what of that? I ain't got time to argy with ye. Take the money and scoot while the scootin's good."

"Now look here, Cap'n — "

"I'll *Cap'n* ye if you don't hunch yourself. I've paid ye what's coming to ye — "

"But I want a explanation, that's what I wants. It's somethin' crooked, Cap'n, that's my guess, and you don't want nobody learnin' the why of them stops o' yourn that ain't down in the log — "

"Stow your jaw! "

"I'll stow nothin' — " There was the sound of a blow. A moment later a figure sped by them in the dark. "I guess it got stowed for him," chuckled Rod, "What were they driving at? "

"Huh, too deep for me. I don't guess that's