

Flames of Freedom

Podcast Episode 3

"Exodus"

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This is a production of Lance Toland Entertainment.

FLAMES OF FREEDOM

"Episode Three: Exodus"

FADE IN UNDER  
OPENING MUSIC:

SFX: OPENING MUSIC

ANNOUNCER

Welcome to Flames of Freedom, a docudrama based on actual historical events, brought to you by Lance Toland Entertainment. Episode 3: Exodus. In the previous episode, Diogo and Gracia Nunes's family has been incarcerated by the Portuguese Inquisition, charged again with Judaizing. As their daughter is hoisted up and tortured, Diogo pleads with the jailers...

SFX: INTERIOR OF PRISON CELL AND JAIL DOOR OPENING

ZIPPORAH

There we were, shackled to the wall with rusty manacles, my father and mother, all of my siblings, and my aunt and uncle. The guards entered the cell, untied Theresa my older sister, and took her out, binding her wrists behind her back with a rope hanging from a pulley suspended from a beam. Slowly, they hoisted her up.

THERESA

(screaming in pain)

ZIPPORAH

There she hung, writhing and screaming in agony, with her feet dangling inches above the ground as we all watched in horror.

THERESA

(screaming in pain)

Daddy! Daddy! Make them stop...

GRACIA

(crying)

Do something Diogo...please don't  
let this happen again...

DIOGO

Stop it! Stop it! I'll confess!  
Please! In the name of God, do not  
do this...

GRACIA

You monsters!

DIOGO

Take me to the Inquisitor General.  
I demand it! I'll do anything. Sign  
anything. Confess to anything. But  
just stop this...Now!

ZIPPORAH

The torturers looked at each other,  
and one of them nodded with a smug  
expression of self-satisfaction.  
They slowly lowered Theresa to the  
dirt, where she collapsed in a  
heap, whimpering and crying. Then,  
they untied her and dragged her  
back into the prison cell, bound  
her hands with fetters, unshackled  
my father, and ushered him from the  
cell with his hands tied behind his  
back.

ZIPPORAH (CONT'D)

The jailers brought my father into  
the offices of the Inquisitor  
General, who was seated behind a  
large desk with a hefty tome open  
in front of him. On the right of  
the desk were similar books. The  
Inquisitor General nodded at the  
jailers who untied my father's  
hands. With a small motion of his  
head, the Inquisitor General  
dismissed them, then motioned to my  
father to sit in the chair in front  
of him. My father remained  
standing, staring at the  
Inquisitor.

INQUISITOR GENERAL

My dear friend, please, sit.

ZIPPORAH

With hesitation, he sat, taking a deep breath. For the longest time, they just sat there, looking into each other's eyes, in a game of wills to see who would speak first.

INQUISITOR GENERAL

I understand that my brethren downstairs gave you a warm welcome.

DIOGO

Monte de merda! How could you do this to my daughter?

INQUISITOR GENERAL

Monte de merda? That's no way to speak to one of your most important patients. Don't upset me more than I am, having read so many troubling things this morning about your past. My predecessor kept such detailed records. Admirable, don't you think?

ZIPPORAH

My father was stone-faced as he continued to stare him down.

INQUISITOR GENERAL

No? Hmm, let's see what it says about your ancestors.

SFX: turning a page in a book.

INQUISITOR GENERAL (CONT'D)

Ah, here. Yes. 1497. That was a long time ago, no? Domingos Botelho de Lucena and Renata Reis de Veiga, converted from Judaism to become Cristãos-Novos. What a glorious, joyous day, don't you think?

ZIPPORAH

My father's eyes teared up, hearing the names of his ancestor.

INQUISITOR GENERAL

Touching, isn't it?

DIOGO

That's not exactly the story I grew up with.

## INQUISITOR GENERAL

Yes, I can imagine that. I suppose your tale glorifies Domingos and Renata, who continued secretly practicing their faith according to the Laws of Moses, defying the Catholic Church. Then passed on the filth of heresy to their children. Quite a legacy, I would say, perpetuating a lie of such dangerous proportions over more than...let's see, six, seven, eight generations. Ah, but the story continues.

SFX: The turning of a page

## INQUISITOR GENERAL (CONT'D)

Where is it? Ah, here. The arrest of one Doctor Diogo Nunez Ribeiro, August 22, 1703. You never told me you had been the subject of an investigation by The Holy Office so many years ago, before my time.

## DIOGO

And you never mentioned you have a bastard child with a common prostitute masquerading as a solemn nun. What do the midwives call it? "Little canons of the Patriarchal Church?"

## INQUISITOR GENERAL

Hmm, we all have our little secrets, don't we?

## DIOGO

And it would be such a shame if this revelation became common knowledge, would it not?

## INQUISITOR GENERAL

No doubt. But today, I'm not on trial. **You** are. It's best to keep your threats to yourself...Hm, let's see what your record says. Your father, Manuel Henriques de Lucena, also arrested the same day in 1703. As was your wife. Your family's history of Judaizing is quite touching.

(MORE)

## INQUISITOR GENERAL (CONT'D)

Ah, and here are the names of seven people, family, friends, and acquaintances, all accusing you. And, like so many, you claimed innocence and denied you had anything to confess. But we know that's not true...don't we?

## ZIPPORAH

My father refused to respond.

## INQUISITOR GENERAL

And even the prosecutor admitted that you were always a good Catholic, at least in public, attending the sacraments and practicing acts of a good Christian. Some even attested to seeing you eating pork, among them five friars from the Convent of Santo Domingo.

## DIOGO

No one can find fault with the good I have done in the world.

## INQUISITOR GENERAL

We're not speaking of acts of kindness. I am talking here about what was in your heart, Diogo. Like your forbears, you were a rabid believer in the Laws of Moses!

## DIOGO

I am not sure you would know anything about matters of the heart.

## INQUISITOR GENERAL

That may be true. But I do know one thing. You, like all of you Jews, are weak and feeble. It didn't take much for you to confess your wrongs. Just a little turn on the rack. I would never have suspected that you, of all people, have such a low tolerance for pain. It didn't take much for the denunciations of others to flow like cheap wine. Your father-in-law, mother-in-law, your wife, her sister, and your sister-in-law. The list goes on.

(MORE)

INQUISITOR GENERAL (CONT'D)

Your wife, on the other hand,  
appears to have had much greater  
strength and perseverance in her  
claims of innocence.

ZIPPORAH

My father remained stoically  
silent.

INQUISITOR GENERAL (V.O.)

Braver and tougher than you. Never  
confessed even though she had been  
denounced by her own father. She  
endured eight ropes, two for each  
limb! Such fortitude!

DIOGO

What do you want from me?

INQUISITOR GENERAL

The truth.

DIOGO

What you call truth is a pretense  
to destroy people's lives.

INQUISITOR GENERAL

We all have a calling in this life,  
Diogo--yours, medicine, mine,  
upholding Christian doctrine.

DIOGO

Do you think Jesus would approve of  
what you do to people in his name  
in that torture chamber of yours?  
Whatever happened to the compassion  
of the Virgin Mary or God's  
forgiveness for our sins? The God  
your Church has created may as well  
be an evil monster.

INQUISITOR GENERAL

Perhaps. But it's my Church. And my  
rules. I'll leave acts of  
compassion to people like you.  
Taking in a mulatto child as a  
servant. How kind of you and your  
wife. Such Christian generosity  
touches my heart. But my job is to  
preserve the integrity of the  
Catholic Church! What would you  
have me do, Diogo?

(MORE)

## INQUISITOR GENERAL (CONT'D)

Did you not learn anything from the wretched experience of being tortured and stripped of your possessions?

## ZIPPORAH

My father was looking out the window at a sparrow perched precariously on a limb.

## INQUISITOR GENERAL

Obviously not...which brings us to the matter of your recent activities, Diogo. I'm not speaking of lighting a few candles in your basement to commemorate some incidental Jewish festival. It should come as no surprise that there have been accusations that you are aiding other heretic Jews to escape Portugal illegally on postal vessels. What say you to that Diogo?

## DIOGO

All untrue. Lies and fabrications.

## INQUISITOR GENERAL

(coughing heavily at the conclusion of his monologue)

I suspected you would disavow these charges. They are so hard to prove, at least conclusively. No? First, I would need to initiate a lengthy investigation while you rot in prison. That could take months. Even years. Painful torture. Such a messy affair. And then the trial. That could drag on forever. And the punishment. I wouldn't expect the jury to be so lenient with so serious a charge. But given that the King and I depend on your medical expertise, it would not serve me well to send you to prison for a year or two, would it?

## ZIPPORAH

The convulsions wracked his whole body with pain.

(MORE)



ZIPPORAH (CONT'D)

My father stood authoritatively, came around the desk, took the Inquisitor's hand, and began taking his pulse. He then motioned to a couch by the window.

SFX: chair being pushed back on the wooden floor

DIOGO

Come lay over here where I can examine you.

ZIPPORAH

The Inquisitor slowly got up and laid down on the couch. My father pulled up a chair, placed his hand on the Inquisitor's chest, and began lightly thumping.

SFX: thumping of chest

ZIPPORAH (CONT'D)

He placed his ear close to his chest to listen to his heartbeat and then examined the Inquisitor's pupils.

SFX: heartbeat

DIOGO

Have you been taking your medication?

INQUISITOR GENERAL

Not regularly. My work keeps me busy, as you can imagine. I keep forgetting.

DIOGO

If you don't, the cough will worsen, and the acid from your stomach will consume your organs, likely killing you one day.

ZIPPORAH

The Inquisitor waved him off, sitting up and looking long at him.

INQUISITOR GENERAL

I'll be more diligent with my medication. Now I have some advice for you. I'll release your family without further harm on three conditions.

(MORE)

## INQUISITOR GENERAL (CONT'D)

First, you must never again be caught Judaizing. Second, no more reports of smuggling Conversos out of Lisbon. Starting now. Do you understand me, Diogo? If you get reported again, it will compromise my authority.

DIOGO

Yes...What's the last condition?

INQUISITOR GENERAL

Diogo, I wish I could take you at your word, but given your previous conviction, your word is worthless. So, I have stationed two inquisitors to live with you and your family to watch your every move. Politically, I can't afford to have this mess on my doorstep again.

DIOGO

You can't do that!

INQUISITOR GENERAL

Oh yes, I can. And I have. Heed my warning. Future infractions won't be met with such leniency. I am done talking. Be off. This whole affair has made me weary and upset my stomach. I need to rest. Guards!

ZIPPORAH

The guards escorted my father out, closing the door behind him as he heard screams and moans emanating from the dungeon.

SFX: screams and moans of pain.

SFX: Musical transition

BENJAMIN

So, he released you all?

ZIPPORAH

Yes, but now we found ourselves living in a prison without bars...that morning, when our carriage pulled up to the entrance of our home, we slowly and solemnly made our way up the walkway to the front door.

(MORE)

## ZIPPORAH (CONT'D)

Once inside, except for Theresa, everyone seemed relatively unfazed by the ordeal of the last day. The rope burns on her wrists were still quite visible, and my mother held her tight as they climbed the stairs. Lucio opened the front door and fell into the arms of my father, who embraced him as he sobbed. The rest of the family gathered around them, tearfully embracing. As we entered the living room, we were confronted by two friars that the Inquisitor General had placed in our home.

## INQUISITOR I

Welcome home, Dr. Nunes.

## INQUISITOR II

We are so happy that your stay at The Holy Office was... satisfactory, we presume.

## DIOGO

Yes, you can presume it was entirely...satisfactory.

## INQUISITOR II

So happy to hear that. Your servants were kind enough to offer us two unoccupied bedrooms upstairs. They seem quite adequate for our meager needs. If any of you decide to leave the house, please let us know in advance.

## ZIPPORAH

The first inquisitor held up a key.

## INQUISITOR I

We'll leave you be for now and let you settle back in. Oh, by the way, there's a new lock on the basement door. Don't hesitate to ask if you or your servants need anything there.

## ZIPPORAH

They turned and headed up the stairwell to the bedrooms above.

DIOGO

Well, Lucio, I believe we have patients to see today.

ZIPPORAH

He put his arm around Lucio and headed off to his medical office, then turned mid-stride to face us.

DIOGO

It will all work out...trust me. Please...

ZIPPORAH

He turned and headed to the far side of the house, with Lucio following. The rest of us dispersed, with my mother supporting Theresa as they climbed the stairs.

SFX: musical transition

ZIPPORAH (CONT'D)

Later that night, in the quiet of their bedroom, my mother spoke up for what we all were feeling before going to sleep.

SFX: crickets?

GRACIA

(whispering)

We can't live like this, Diogo. With them watching our every move.

DIOGO

I know. What do you propose?

GRACIA

You have friends in the court. Get them to intercede.

DIOGO

It's not that simple. They're arresting people left and right, clamping down on Conversos everywhere.

GRACIA

I don't care about politics. If you can't get rid of them, then...then find a way to get us out of Portugal. I'd rather live like a pauper than a caged bird.

DIOGO

I'll find a way. Just be patient...

SFX: musical transition

ZIPPORAH

Despite my father's reassurances, life went on much like it was before that fateful arrest, even though we all felt like we were in a fishbowl. My parents' every move was scrutinized. No one left the house without explaining where they were going and when they would return. On the surface, things looked somewhat normal. Underneath, we were all gasping for air.

BENJAMIN

So, how did you escape?

SFX: Door knocker

ZIPPORAH

God works in many wondrous ways...nearly two months later, late in the evening, a British sailor knocked on our front door. Cátia, our servant, opened the door to find who could be calling.

SAILOR

Madam, my apologies for the late hour. My captain is ill, and I understand your master is a doctor. May I speak with him?

ZIPPORAH

Cátia motioned for him to enter.

SERVANT

Wait here. I'll see if he is free.

ZIPPORAH

She turned and disappeared through a door that led to my father's study. He was reading a medical book at his desk by candlelight.

SERVANT

Dr. Nunes, there's a sailor here. He says his captain is ill and wishes to speak with you.

DIOGO

Thank you, Cátia. Where is he?

SERVANT

At the entrance, waiting in the vestibule.

DIOGO

That will be all. I'll handle this.

SFX: Chair being pushed back

ZIPPORAH

My father pushed back his chair and went to the entrance.

DIOGO

Good evening. How can I help you?

SAILOR

It's my captain, sir. He has taken ill and requires a doctor right away.

DIOGO

Very well. Where can I find your captain?

SAILOR

In the galley on the ship, sir.

DIOGO

Give me a moment to get my bag, and you can lead the way.

ZIPPORAH

When my father turned to go gather his medical kit, he confronted one of the Inquisitors.

INQUISITOR I

Going out, I see, at this hour of the night?

DIOGO

I am a doctor. Sickness doesn't know the hour.

INQUISITOR I

Indeed. I hope you don't mind if I follow along.

DIOGO

It's none of my business what you choose to do or not do. I will return in a moment unless you need to follow me while I retrieve my medical bag.

INQUISITOR I

No, I don't think that will be necessary.

ZIPPORAH

When my father retrieved his bag, he paused and pulled out a key from his vest pocket, opened a cabinet on the back wall, reached in, and put something else in his bag. He then locked the door before departing. With the Inquisitor in tow, walking a pace or two behind, the sailor led them through the streets of Lisbon. When they reached the docks, the sailor directed my father to a gangplank leading to the ship's deck. That's when my father confronted the Inquisitor.

SFX: Lapping water on dock; creaking planks

DIOGO

You will need to wait here.

INQUISITOR I

Those were not my instructions.

DIOGO

Everything I do with my patients is private. Much like the confessional. That's something you surely can understand. Wait here. Don't worry. I will be back. I have no place to go.

ZIPPORAH

My father turned and followed the sailor down the gangplank onto the ship's deck, past a sailor standing guard with a musket. The Inquisitor hesitated momentarily, then returned to the dock. From his vantage point, he glimpsed my father through a porthole as the captain greeted him in his quarters. The captain then pulled a small curtain over the window.

SFX: Water lapping on the docks; boatswain whistle

ZIPPORAH

Nearly an hour later, my father emerged from the ship's cabins and climbed the gangplank back to the dock where the Inquisitor awaited him.

DIOGO

I trust your time here has been most illuminating.

INQUISITOR I

Your patient, will he survive?

DIOGO

We all survive padre, that is, until we die.

ZIPPORAH

He walked past the Inquisitor and headed down the street back to our house, with the Inquisitor following a few strides behind, attempting to keep up with his pace.

SFX: musical transition

ZIPPORAH (CONT'D)

The next morning, my father handed Lucio Gama a small package and an envelope with a red wax seal.

DIOGO

Lucio, take this medicine to Captain Wingrave on the British Galleon Golden Lion at the harbor.

(MORE)



DIOGO (CONT'D)

I treated him last night. Also, give him this. We have invited him to join us for the festivities and dinner this evening to celebrate Pentecostes. And Lucio, be discrete. I'd rather the friars not know I sent you on this errand.

LUCIO GAMA

I understand.

SFX: Steps on the floor as Lucio departs.

ZIPPORAH

That evening the servants busily put the final touches on the long table set for Pentecost on the patio. My mother was dressed elegantly, nervously checking all the details and running between the table and back to the kitchen to ensure everything was "perfeita." (pronounced "purr-fay-ta") The butler came onto the patio.

SFX: bell ringing

BUTLER

Madam, your sister and brother-in-law have just arrived. Shall I show them to the patio?

GRACIA

By all means, Marco. And ask Emilio to please bring out the Vinho Espumante and serve our guests.

ZIPPORAH

A moment later, Teresa and Sebastião emerged from the house.

SEBASTIÃO

What a beautiful evening for a celebration, Gracia. And where is your wonderful husband, Diogo?

GRACIA

Working, working, working until the last moment. He'll be down shortly with the children.

ZIPPORAH

Lucio Gama emerged on the patio and bowed slightly to Sebastião and Teresa. Sebastião extended his hand, which Lucio took and warmly shook.

SEBASTIÃO

So good to see you again, my friend. Work is good? And everything is back to normal?

LUCIO GAMA

Yes, as well as can be expected.

SEBASTIÃO

(slight chuckle)

Life is such an adventure, isn't it? Ah, and here's Diogo!

DIOGO

Teresa, Sebastião! So glad you could join us.

ZIPPORAH

My father warmly embraced Teresa and took Sebastião's hand, pulling him close, whispering something inaudible in his ear. Sebastião nodded once.

SEBASTIÃO

Everything in order?

DIOGO

Of course. You know how Gracia plans everything to the final detail. And we couldn't have chosen a better night.

SFX: bell being rung

BUTLER

Abrão da Leao, Rodrigo Soares de Bivar, and Captain Wingrave are here.

GRACIA

Show them in. Ah, and the children have finally decided to grace us with their presence, too!

DIOGO  
 Gracia, look who's here. Abrão!  
 Rodrigo!

DIOGO (CONT'D)  
 You know my sister-in-law Teresa  
 and her husband Sebastião, don't  
 you?

ABRÃO  
 Of course, I do.

RODRIGO  
 Certainly. My pleasure to see you  
 again.

SFX: kisses on the cheek

DIOGO  
 And my good captain. I am so  
 pleased you accepted our  
 invitation. You look so much  
 better. I hope you're taking the  
 medicine I prescribed.

CAPTAIN WINGRAVE  
 It worked wonders. And I can't  
 thank you enough for the kind  
 invitation.

DIOGO  
 Here, let me introduce you to my  
 family and guests. Captain  
 Wingrave, my wife Gracia, the  
 foundation of my life.

CAPTAIN WINGRAVE  
 My pleasure to meet you, Senhora  
 Nunes.

DIOGO  
 And my children, Manoel, Isabel,  
 André, Theresa, and my youngest,  
 Maria.

CAPTAIN WINGRAVE  
 What a handsome family you have.

DIOGO  
 And you met Abrão and Rodrigo, I  
 believe.

CAPTAIN WINGRAVE  
 Most certainly, we did.

DIOGO

And my sister-in-law Theresa, her husband Sebastião, and my assistant, Lucio Gama.

ZIPPORAH

The two inquisitors were lurking at the patio's edge like interlopers from another planet. My father motioned for them to come over.

DIOGO

Everyone, I want to introduce two guests who are staying with us for the moment. Father Gualberto and Father Christiano.

ZIPPORAH

They awkwardly nodded, and the Captain extended his hand. Reluctantly they extended their hands and shook his.

GRACIA

And now, may I offer a toast? Emilio, please be certain all our guests have a glass of Espumante.

SFX: wine being poured.

GRACIA (CONT'D)

Today is Pentecoste. A time when God's presence descends upon the world and fills each of us with the Holy Spirit. May this night be filled with new beginnings and awakenings.

SFX: a chorus of Saúde (pronounced: sode) from all the actors; glasses clinking

GRACIA (CONT'D)

Father Gualberto. Perhaps you could offer a prayer.

FATHER GUALBERTO

Why...yes...Lord Jesus Christ, Who, before ascending into heaven, promised to send the Holy Ghost to finish Thy work. Jesus, grant the same Holy Spirit to all of us, that He may perfect our souls and work Thy grace in our lives. Amen.

SFX: a chorus of "Amen" from all the actors

GRACIA

Now, please, let us eat before the  
food grows cold.

SFX: food being served; clattering of China plates

ZIPPORAH

My mother was a consummate host.  
A name card on each plate. There  
was even a place set for the  
Inquisitors. As people sat down,  
our servants circled the table  
filling their plates with  
Portuguese delicacies. I, named  
Maria then sat next to Captain  
Wingrave. Abrão sat next to  
Theresa, Rodrigo next to Isabel,  
and the two couples were absorbed  
in an intimate discussion. My  
brothers and I engaged Captain  
Wingrave to learn about every place  
he had traveled in the world.

MARIA

Captain Wingrave, my father told me  
you are from London.

CAPTAIN WINGRAVE

That is true.

MARIA

I hear that London is a beautiful  
city.

CAPTAIN WINGRAVE

Not nearly as beautiful as your  
lovely Lisbon. Perhaps someday you  
can visit.

MARIA

That would be grand, yes.

MANOEL

Captain Wingrave, where else have  
you traveled?

CAPTAIN WINGRAVE

All around the Mediterranean, the  
coast of Africa, France, and of  
course, Portugal, many times, as  
well as the colonies in America  
twice.

MANOEL

America? I have heard such remarkable stories about America. Is it everything they say it is?

ANDRÉ

And have you seen Indians? I hear that they are magnificent with their plumes of feathers and clothes made of animal skins.

CAPTAIN WINGRAVE

Yes, I have seen Indians, of which there are many. Most are friendly, but not all. America is unlike anything you can ever imagine. The forests stretch as far as the eye can see. And it appears that almost anyone can make a life there if they're willing to work hard. It's quite exciting.

ANDRÉ

I would love to be able to talk to an Indian.

CAPTAIN WINGRAVE

Perhaps you could travel with me to America one day and meet a real, live Indian.

DIOGO

Well, that is a lovely fantasy. André is such a dreamer, but I hope he follows in my footsteps to study medicine. Perhaps one day, André, you can travel to the Americas and discover new drugs to cure people of their maladies.

ANDRÉ

Yes, perhaps one day.

ZIPPORAH

My father broke in as the meal was wrapping up, and the Pastel de Nata had been served for dessert.

DIOGO

Let us all retire to the seawall. I believe the fireworks will be starting any minute now. This is my favorite holiday. Emilio, please replenish everyone's wine glasses.

SFX: chairs being pushed away from the table; explosions of fireworks

SFX: oohs and aahs and gasps of wonder

ZIPPORAH

As we pushed away from the table, we could hear the first explosions in the distance from the barge on the bay. Sparks and streaks of light burst into the night sky as our servants circulated, refilling our glasses. The fireworks lasted for nearly thirty minutes until darkness extinguished the last crescendo of sparkling lights.

CAPTAIN WINGRAVE

That was splendid. I offer a toast to Diogo and, most importantly, to Gracia for a meal as tantalizing and wonderful as what we have just witnessed in the night skies. To Gracia!

SFX: glasses clinking; All shout out, "To Gracia!"

CAPTAIN WINGRAVE

I have a proposal. How many of you have ever set foot on an English Galleon? Other than Diogo, who so graciously came out in the middle of the night to treat my cough.

ZIPPORAH

Every one of us shook our heads. None had ever set foot on an English Galleon.

CAPTAIN WINGRAVE

Well, then, why don't we finish the evening with a nightcap in my cabin on the ship?

ZIPPORAH

My father looked to my mother, who nodded. He then looked at the two Inquisitors, who in turn looked at each other.

FATHER CHRISTIANO  
(drunk and slurring his  
speech)  
I can see no harm. As long as we  
are invited.

CAPTAIN WINGRAVE  
Of course, you are. Well, then, let  
me lead the way.

ZIPPORAH  
The captain led us out the front  
door and down the streets of  
Lisbon. It was only a few blocks  
walk; truth be told, we were all a  
little drunk and boisterous,  
including the Inquisitors. When we  
arrived at the Galleon, the captain  
escorted the women down the plank  
to the boat's deck. When we were  
all on board, he turned to the crew  
member standing guard.

CAPTAIN WINGRAVE  
Evans, we'll be below in my cabin.  
Is everything secured as I ordered  
before leaving earlier?

EVANS  
Aye, aye, Captain Wingrave.  
Everything is just as you ordered,  
sir.

CAPTAIN WINGRAVE  
Good. I'll be taking my guests  
below. Please don't disturb me  
unless it's an emergency.

ZIPPORAH  
The sailor nodded and saluted  
Captain Wingrave, who returned the  
salute. Then he led us down a set  
of stairs to the rear of the boat  
into his spacious cabin. When we  
arrived, he rearranged the room to  
ensure the women had a place to  
sit, then reached into a cabinet,  
pulled out a bottle of brandy, laid  
out small glasses on the table, and  
began pouring. Once the glasses  
were full, he passed them around to  
everyone.



CAPTAIN WINGRAVE

To Mrs. Nunes for one of the most impressive evenings I have ever enjoyed, on these shores or anywhere I have ever sailed.

SFX: Glasses clinking. All saying "To Mrs. Nunes"

CAPTAIN WINGRAVE (CONT'D)

And to friendship. May ours grow for decades to come, whether I am visiting you in your country or you are visiting me in mine.

SFX: All saying "to friendship"

DIOGO

Thank you for your kind words, Captain Wingrave. But I doubt we will be allowed to visit you in your country any time soon, but as we all know, our God has a way of surprising us. May the day arrive when we can all travel freely across the seas.

ABRÃO

Hear, hear. To my dear friends Diogo and Gracia for your warm hospitality and to Captain Wingrave and his grand sailing ship.

SFX: glasses clinking. All say: "To Diogo, Gracia, and Captain Wingrave."

SEBASTIÃO

And to Captain Wingrave's fine brandy!

SFX: Everyone laughs; chatter in the room

ZIPPORAH

We drank and drank and continued to toast each other until the Captain opened another bottle of brandy. Our two inquisitors were quite inebriated, forgetting their supervisory role and joining in the convivial conversation. My father suddenly took an interest in a cabinet with glass doors, behind which were two flintlock pistols and two muskets.

DIOGO

My, Captain, those are fine armaments you have there. The inlaid ivory design on the handles is most handsome.

CAPTAIN WINGRAVE

We call them Queen Anne Pistols. Would you care to hold them?

DIOGO

Why...yes. I have never held a pistol before.

SFX: glass door of cabinet squeaking as it opens

ZIPPORAH

The Captain removed a key from his vest pocket, opened the glass door, reached in, and retrieved the pistols. He then handed them to my father.

CAPTAIN WINGRAVE

Careful now with the trigger. They're loaded.

ZIPPORAH

My father marveled at the pistols' workmanship, then suddenly, without warning, turned and pointed them at the Captain, cocking them.

CAPTAIN WINGRAVE

Watch out there, Dr. Nunes. As I said, they're loaded. Best not to point them at anyone.

DIOGO

And best, Captain Wingrave, that you do as I say. Direct your sailor above to give the orders to the crew to weigh anchor immediately, unfurl the sails, and depart the docks.

SFX: All of the chatter of conversation in the cabin abruptly stops.

CAPTAIN WINGRAVE

Dr. Nunes. Certainly, you jest.

DIOGO

No, Captain Wingrave, I am deadly serious.

SFX: two chairs being pushed back

FATHER CHRISTIANO

Dr. Nunes. What you are now doing is punishable by death.

DIOGO

Father Christiano, what your Catholic Church has done already robbed my family of its life. There is nothing more you or any of your ilk can do to keep us imprisoned.

FATHER CHRISTIANO

I swear by Jesus, you and your family will burn at the stake if you continue this insanity.

DIOGO

Before the night is out, I will not be in flames. But you, father, will be swimming for your life. Lucio, come, take one of the pistols and keep it pointed at our two friends. If one of them so much as moves without my saying so, shoot him.

ZIPPORAH

My father handed one of the pistols to Lucio, who turned and aimed it at the priests. No one in the cabin moved even a finger.

DIOGO

As I was saying, Captain, order your ship's crew to depart immediately. I would hate to shoot you, but I will if you force my hand. You see, now I am a condemned man. My family and I have nothing to lose. As your physician, I can attest that you should have a long life ahead of you. Unless, of course, you make the wrong decision right now.

ZIPPORAH

The captain sat frozen, contemplating his next move.

CAPTAIN WINGRAVE

Very well. But you will regret this.

DIOGO

Captain, there are many things I regret in this life. But this is not one of them. Now, order your men to make a steadfast departure!

ZIPPORAH

The Captain slowly got up, went to the door, and, with deliberation, opened it.

CAPTAIN WINGRAVE

Evans!

EVANS

Aye, aye, sir.

CAPTAIN WINGRAVE

Evans, order the crew to weigh anchor and depart from the dock immediately.

EVANS

Immediately Captain? But what about our guests?

CAPTAIN WINGRAVE

They'll be accompanying us.

EVANS

Aye, aye captain.

ZIPPORAH

Above us we could hear footsteps on the deck, the sails being unfurled, ropes being thrown off, and the anchor being pulled from the water.

SFX: Footsteps; activity of anchor being brought up and ropes being thrown off. Sound of sail unfurling and flapping in the breeze

ZIPPORAH (CONT'D)

All the while, my father kept his gun pointed at the Captain, and Lucio pointed his pistol at the two priests.

FATHER GUALBERTO

You'll never get away with this.

DIOGO

Father, from the rocking of the hull, I am getting away with this. And getting away from your filthy, oppressive theology. Lucio, if either of them says another word without being spoken to, shoot him.

ZIPPORAH

Lucio nodded, not taking his eyes off the priests.

EVANS

(shouting down the stairs)  
Captain, the moor lines have been thrown off, and we're away.

ZIPPORAH

My father motioned to the captain and everyone else with his pistol.

DIOGO

All of us now, to the deck.  
Captain, I remind you, one wrong move and I will fire.

ZIPPORAH

Slowly, the Captain climbed the stairs with my father right behind him, the gun pointing at his back. He was followed by the two priests, with Lucio behind them. The rest of us apprehensively climbed the stairs as well. We found the crew standing aside nervously, watching my father with his gun fixed on the Captain. Lucio had the two priests in the sites of his pistol.

DIOGO

Fathers, you have a choice. You can swim back to the dock now or wait until we reach the English Channel. I suggest you choose the former option if you value your life.

FATHER CHRISTIANO

Dr. Diogo, you and your family will burn in hell for this.

DIOGO

Father, I expect you'll be there to greet us when we arrive. Now, up on the gunnel and jump!

ZIPPORAH

The two priests nervously dragged themselves onto the gunnel, holding ropes strung to the masts to steady themselves as they stood erect, looking out at the quickly receding dock.

DIOGO

What are you waiting for, fathers?  
Your messiah?

ZIPPORAH

My father placed his gun into the back of Father Christiano, who quickly jumped into the murky water. He then did the same to Father Gualberto.

FATHER GUALBERTO

I am not such a good swimmer.

DIOGO

No better time to learn.

ZIPPORAH

He shoved him, and he tumbled into the bay, cursing. The two priests arduously began swimming back to shore as my father turned to face the Captain.

DIOGO

Now, Captain Wingrave, I believe you and I have some business to conclude. Please direct your crew to set sail for London.

ZIPPORAH

The Captain paused to look at my father, then at Evans.

CAPTAIN WINGRAVE

Do as the good doctor suggests. I'll be in my cabin with him if you need me. And please treat our guests with courtesy.

ZIPPORAH

My father then extended his hand to Lucio...

DIOGO

I'll take the pistol, Lucio. Good work, my friend. Now, Captain, shall we retire to your cabin?

SFX: Steps on stairs, then the door being closed. The sound of the spring tension being released on the hammers of the two pistols.

ZIPPORAH

When they reached the cabin, my father gently uncocked the pistols and handed them to the Captain.

CAPTAIN WINGRAVE

That, my friend, was a most convincing performance.

DIOGO

(laughing)

I was not acting. I meant every word I said. If you had reneged on our agreement, I was prepared to shoot you and the priests.

CAPTAIN WINGRAVE

I'm no fool. That's why I took the lead shot out of the pistols. I didn't want to take any chances.

SFX: Diogo laughing; brandy being poured

ZIPPORAH

My father laughed as the captain turned and filled two glasses with brandy and handed one to him.

CAPTAIN WINGRAVE

To life.

DIOGO

Yes, to a new life. To conclude our agreement, I still owe you an additional five hundred gold Reals. Do you happen to have a knife I could borrow?

SFX: desk drawer opening; knife slitting fabric

ZIPPORAH

The Captain opened a desk drawer and handed a small dagger to my father, who removed his jacket, and carefully slit open the lining, pulling a long linen bag from it. He laid that on the desk and slit it open, revealing gold coins.

DIOGO

All the money is there. Feel free to count it.

CAPTAIN WINGRAVE

No need. You are an honorable man Doctor Nunes.

SFX: glasses clinking

DIOGO

To your health. Para sua saúde (sounds like sa·u·di).

CAPTAIN WINGRAVE

To yours as well. And may you find the freedom you're seeking at long last.

SFX: ship sailing through waves; wind blowing. Musical transition

ZIPPORAH

An hour later, my parents stood on the ship's bow looking out to sea as the ship cut through the water, with the moon's light reflected in the waves.

GRACIA

Did you feel that?

DIOGO

Feel what? The wind?

GRACIA

No. Freedom, meu (pronounced "moo") amor. Freedom.

FADE OUT.



SFX: MUSIC SEGUE

END

SFX: Music

ANNOUNCER

This is the conclusion of Episode Three of Flames of Freedom. Written by Richard Stone. Produced and directed by Mark Simon at Cue Tone Productions. Audio Engineering, Original Music, and Sound Design by David Wilson. Executive Producer Lance Toland. Starring...

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