Jack gazed pensively at his grandfather’s archaic chest, its presence bringing a spectral ambience to the dilapidated attic, cobwebs intertwining like an intricate labyrinth. It beckoned him forward, and with no other choice, he creaked open the chest, a rancid odour blasting into his face like a shot of a gun. Mustering all of his strength, he grasped the jaundiced parchment, its flaky corners curling inwards like unravelling waves. A deep vermillion ‘X’ was marked on the left uppermost corner, as scarlet anachronistic cursive adorned the paper, writing, “Beware the curse of Skeleton Isle. Only the pure of heart may claim the treasure.” The skull’s empty eye sockets pierced into Jack’s soul like a dagger, but he knew what he had to do next.

Clutching the helm, Jack swerved across the deck, the fierce storm’s wrath wreaking havoc on the diminutive boat. The rain coated the stern in a pool, the mahogany boards on the precipice of collapsing into the ocean’s perilous clasp. The hull was worn and dented, the mast soaked and dripping in despair. The bow crashes against the chalky alabaster sand of the isle, but Jack fills with persistent worry that he will never return.

The cerulean sky was free of clouds, and the sun’s aurous rays shone upon his pale skin. Groaning in fatigue, Jack heaved himself off of the ground, his arms on the verge of subsiding. Scrutinising at the map, he had crash-landed into the bay directly opposing the beach he was on currently. The shortest route was blocked by an intertwining serpentine vegetation crowd, like a vast tapestry of weaved plants and vines. Without a choice, Jack began his arduous journey, hiking through innumerable obstacles. Exhausted from his expedition, his legs crumpled onto the shore, and he never imagined returning to Skeleton Isle again.

Jack finally reached the shore containing the fabled lost treasure, which tapered off into a deep cavern. Exhausted but resolute, he navigated through the dark labyrinth within. When he finally uncovered the treasure, a chest filled with divine glowing gold and sapphires, emeralds, diamonds, rubies, and ornate jewelry beyond her wildest dreams, her weariness morphed into awe. Yet, as she gazed upon the glittering trove, Jack felt a pang of emptiness. The journey had taken him away from loved ones, and the glory of the treasure seemed hollow compared to the warmth of home.

He realized that the true reward was not the wealth she had unearthed, but the strength and wisdom he had gained through her trials. But with no way back home, he was still in a predicament.