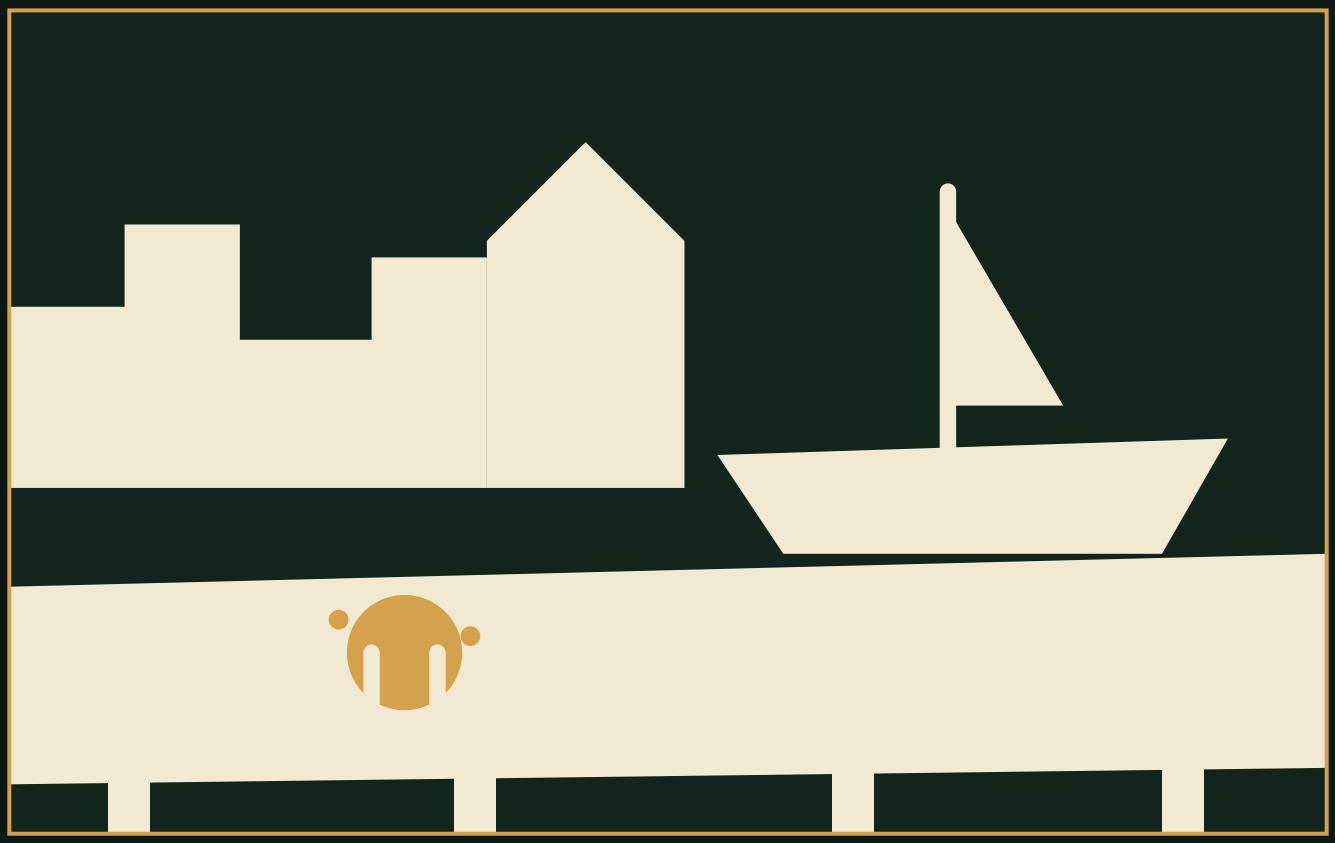
The Ship That Tied Up Empty

Quillhaven, on the Saltmere Reach



Last week a ship tied up at Quillhaven's Long Quay with nobody aboard, and the tide-table in the Tidehall has that hour circled.

Talewick Quests — original content, free to print and play.

Read this to your players to start

The Salt-Needle tied up at the Long Quay with nobody aboard, her ropes in a Quillhaven knot and last week's lowest tide circled on the galley wall. Find out where the crew went, and get them home before today's walking-tide turns.

Who's in this adventure

The Walking-Tide

Heart Points 2 · Guard 20

None. It is water going out and coming in. It has never once come at a person.

A Harbour-Charm

Heart Points 1 · Guard 2

None. It is a plaited ribbon and a bronze tag, about as heavy as a door-key.

A Mudlark

Heart Points 1 · Guard 8

None. A mudlark is a small brown bird that works the flats and has never hurt anybody.

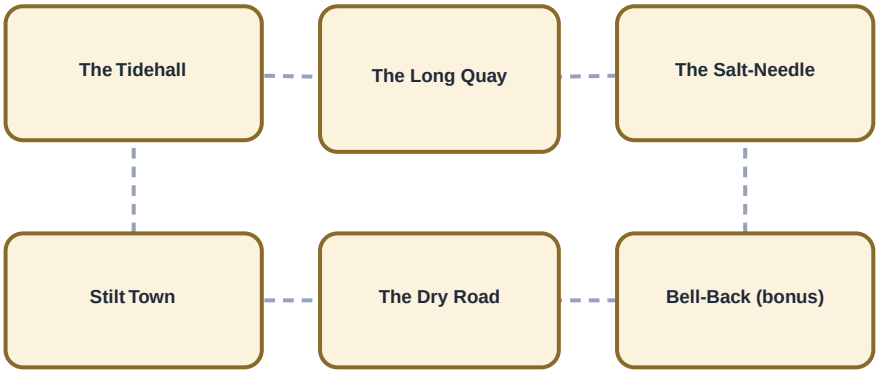
Tips for running this one

• The tide is the answer, and that is on purpose, not a twist you spring. If a player reaches for pirates or a curse, do not stop them: just let the ship stay tidy and the knot stay local, and let Kett say they walked. Nobody here is wicked.

• Nothing in this adventure fights. If a player reaches for a sword, have nobody on the other side reach back, and let the scene stay a conversation about water.

• The crew are alive and dry the whole time. Only the road to Bell-Back floods; the sandbank never has, and they packed for a week because that is the Quillhaven rule. Do not play Bell-Back as a rescue, and do not play Mara as a lesson. She misread a wind.

Map



The trail starts on the empty Salt-Needle and crosses to the Tidehall for the circled times. It goes down into Stilt Town to hear the errand in plain words, then out along the Dry Road. At the Epic length it reaches Bell-Back. It ends back at the Long Quay as the water turns. The Quick Quest can skip from the empty deck straight to the quay and still land.

SHOW YOUR PLAYERS THIS

The Galley Tide-Table

A printed Tidehall sheet, pinned above the Salt-Needle's stove with two brass tacks. Last week's lowest tide is circled in a careful hand. Today's is circled too. In the margin, in an apprentice's pencil: a bell standing on a hump of sand, water drawn all round it, and four little people walking out toward it.