

**Edward Teach** - Better known as Blackbeard, is charismatic, imperial, terrifying and brilliant. Haunted by his own nature and his own past, he's determined to forge a new kind of nation — part shantytown, part utopia, and a haven for pirates, outlaws and brigands of all creeds and colors. But will he be a liberator... or a tyrant?

**Tom Lowe** – A British assassin and spy posing as a physician. He is tasked with escorting an important British inventor and his valuable invention home. When captured his mission parameters change to killing Blackbeard. Lowe carries a terrible burden of guilt for the things he's in the name of carrying out his missions. He's a man searching for a conscience.

**William Jagger** – British governor of Jamaica and Lowe's spymaster, Jagger is convinced that Blackbeard still lives, despite numerous reports to the contrary. He Tasks Lowe with escorting a British inventor and his valuable invention home from the Caribbean with the purpose of finding Blackbeard's secret location and killing him.

**Kate Balfour** – Born to a wealthy family, now a British fugitive from British justice, Kate is Quartermaster on the island and wife to the crippled aristocratic Scottish rebel, James Balfour. Kate fled to Santa Compana after freeing her husband from imprisonment and torture. She loves this new life. Her friendship with Lowe quickly becomes more romantic and complicated.

**Tim Fletch** – Lowe's young and faithful **assistant, or** "loblolly boy". Not the bravest or brightest, Fletch is arguably the most pure hearted **soul** on the island. Lowe, and eventually everyone on the island, comes to adopt him as a surrogate son.

**James Balfour** – Kate's husband. Crippled **by** torture, Balfour has become an opium addict to deal with his chronic pain. The mutual respect between Lowe and Balfour is complicated by Lowe and Kate's relationship... and the revelation that their paths **may have** crossed before.

**Selima al Sharad** – Blackbeard's beautiful, enigmatic consigliere. A gifted mathematician and intellectual, she was betrothed through arranged marriage when Blackbeard stole her off a ship from the middle east – believing her gifts would be caged in such a society. They are in a restrained love but have never consummated it. Suffering from a form of agoraphobia, Selima refuses to leave Blackbeard's house.

**Charles Rider** – Blackbeard's violent but loyal lieutenant. He becomes jealous of Lowe and Blackbeard's relationship... and fears Blackbeard's wrath, should the Commodore discover a secret Rider shares with Selima.

**Nenna Ajanlekoko** – **An enigmatic sword-master and blacksmith who secretly keeps** a buried treasure of plunder stolen from her fellows, a crime that carries a terrible penalty.