

SERRANO

A historical survival drama inspired by a true story.
The island could sustain one man. Survival demanded two.

Logline

After years surviving alone on a barren Caribbean island, a hardened Spanish castaway rescues another shipwrecked sailor, only to discover that sharing water, food and control may be more dangerous than surviving alone.

The Historical Inspiration

In the early sixteenth century, Spanish sailor Pedro Serrano was shipwrecked on a remote Caribbean island. Accounts claim that he survived there for years, eventually sharing the island with another castaway before their rescue. Serrano transforms this extraordinary survival story into a psychological drama about what remains of civilization when no authority exists to uphold it.



The Story

In the early sixteenth century, a Spanish ship is driven onto a Caribbean reef during a violent storm. Pedro Serrano survives the wreck, but survival carries its own burden. In the water, his crewmate Diego clings to his ankle, dragging them both beneath the surface. Serrano kicks him away to save himself and watches Diego disappear into the darkness. He reaches the barren island alive, haunted by the choice that made his survival possible. For three years, Serrano lives alone. He learns to catch fish in tidal pools, use nesting turtles as a source of food, collect rainwater in shells and rock hollows, and keep a fire burning through wind and rain. He builds a shelter, marks each passing day into a salvaged chest and raises a coral memorial to the dead. Hunger, thirst and isolation harden into a system: every cup is measured, every scrap preserved, every action governed by what tomorrow may demand. *(Continued on next page)*



After three years alone, Serrano spots a second castaway struggling in the water and swims out toward him. Initially terrified by the barely human figure, Serrano takes him for the Devil. When both men cross themselves, fear gives way to recognition. Serrano hesitates, knowing survival is already precarious, then pulls Alonso ashore. For a time, their partnership works. Serrano shares his food and water, while Alonso fishes, repairs the shelter and helps maintain the camp. But the camp remains Serrano's. He measures every cup, divides every catch and makes every decision. As Alonso regains his strength, he realizes that Serrano has given him a place in the system, but no voice in how it is managed. *(Continued on next page)*



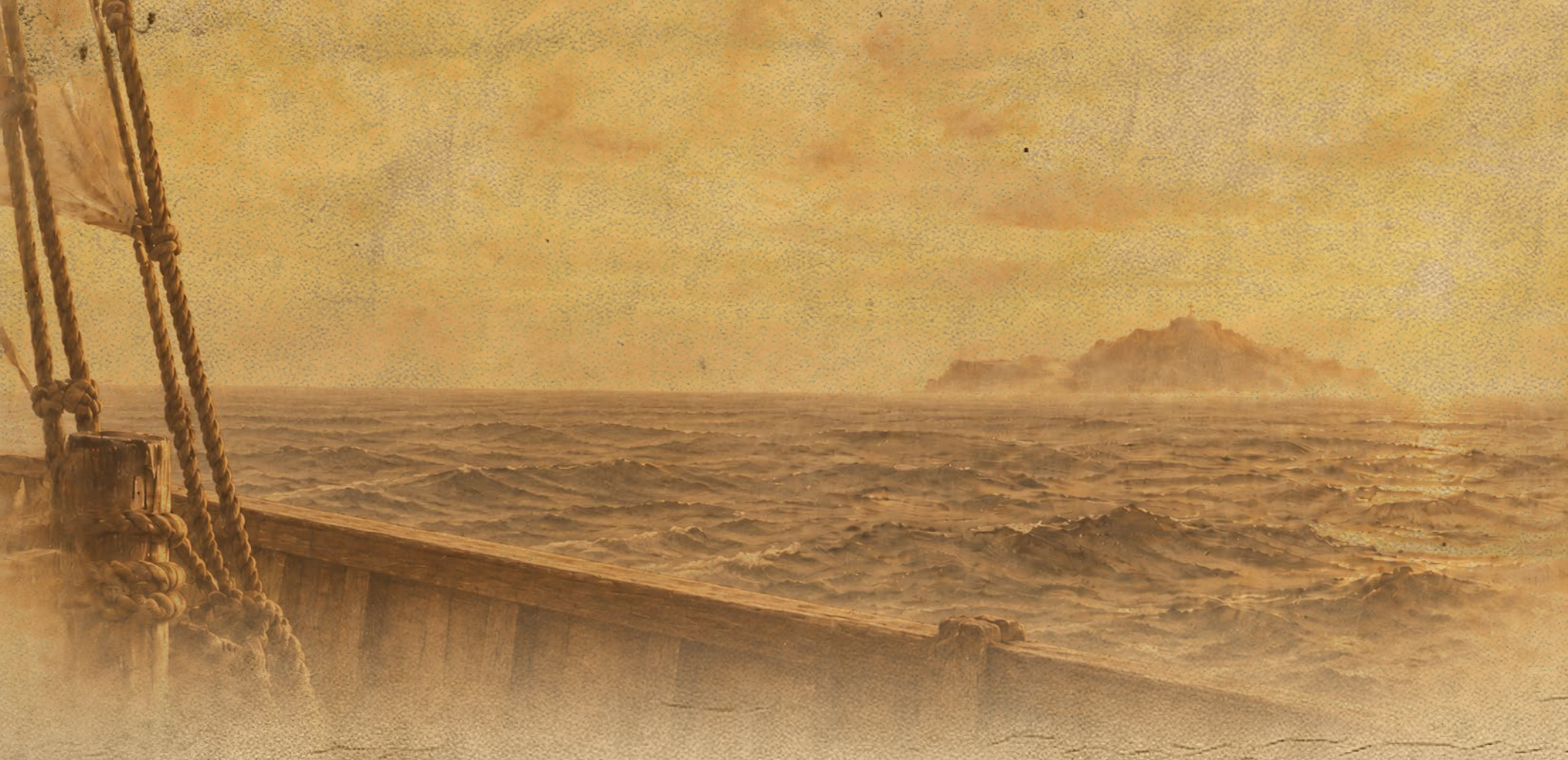
Their conflict erupts when a ship appears on the horizon. Alonso begins feeding the signal fire with dry timber stored beneath the shelter, determined to burn everything they have if it gives them a chance of being rescued. Serrano has watched four ships pass and refuses to sacrifice the resources keeping them alive for another uncertain hope. Alonso accuses him of rationing not only water and food but rescue itself. The argument becomes physical. A burning branch falls into the stored timber, destroying their drying rack and supplies. Serrano pins Alonso to the ground and holds a knife to his throat, but the sight of another helpless man beneath him brings back Diego disappearing into the black water. Serrano recoils. *(Continued on next page)*



Alonso leaves the ruined camp and builds a crude shelter uphill. What began as a disagreement becomes a border. Stones rise between their camps; each man keeps his own fire, memorial and stores. They trade fish, water and cord across the boundary, measuring every exchange. When a heavy mast washes ashore, both men claim it. Either could release his grip long enough to help save it, but neither will yield. The sea takes the timber from them both. Serrano later finds the mast trapped beyond the reef and tries to recover it alone. A wave throws him against the coral, badly cutting his foot. The wound festers and fever leaves him helpless inside his shelter. Alonso watches from above. He can let the island settle their conflict, but instead crosses the boundary. Alonso treats the infected wound, keeps the fire alive through the night and tends the man who once decided whether to rescue him. *(Continued on next page)*



Before the new understanding can become peace, a violent storm strikes. Rainwater pours from the rocks into the shallow basin around Alonso's camp. Debris seals the gaps in their stone boundary, transforming it into a dam. Alonso's shelter is torn away, while the rising water spills around the wall and races toward Serrano's lower camp. As the flood threatens Serrano's shelter, Alonso chooses to help save it. Working together, they pull stones from the wall to reopen a drainage channel to the sea. Alonso is trapped beneath the water; Serrano enters the torrent on his injured leg and frees him. Moments later the current takes Serrano, and Alonso refuses to let go. Together they divert the flood and brace the collapsing shelter before the storm can erase the last traces of their life on the island. *(Continued on next page)*



In the aftermath, possession gives way to shared purpose. They dismantle the surviving boundary and repair Serrano's shelter. Then they take the broken shafts of their spears, once turned against each other, and bind them together into a cross. They carry it to the island's highest point and anchor it with the stones that once divided them. Years pass. Their bodies age, their clothes decay and the marks on the chest multiply, but they now move through the island with the practiced coordination of men whose survival depends on each other. Years later, the cross catches the attention of a passing merchant caravel, bringing rescuers to the island. They find two men barely recognizable as European sailors. Serrano and Alonso leave together after seven years on the island. The island has released them, but it has not finished with them. On the voyage home, Alonso falls ill. Serrano measures his water, keeps watch through the night and speaks of the land ahead, but Alonso dies before they reach it and is buried at sea. Serrano returns alone, carrying the ruined prayer book and the memory of the man who once challenged his authority and later saved his life.

Characters





Pedro Serrano

Powerful, disciplined and profoundly alone.
Serrano has survived by turning fear into discipline and discipline into control. Every ration, every task, every decision has a place in the system he has built. But another human being cannot be managed like water or food. His journey is learning that survival with Alonso requires trust, compromise and the willingness to surrender control.

Alonso

Intelligent, observant and unwilling to become indebted for his life. Alonso initially accepts Serrano's authority because he has no choice. As he regains his strength, he begins challenging the system that governs their food, work and hope. He does not want to replace Serrano. He wants Serrano to recognise him as an equal.



The Dramatic Arc

Serrano survives the island through discipline, building a system in which every resource has its place. Alonso's arrival disrupts that order, turning survival into a struggle over power, ownership and control. Their conflict reaches its breaking point when a passing ship forces them to choose how much of what keeps them alive they are willing to sacrifice for the chance of rescue, leaving their supplies destroyed and Serrano's knife at Alonso's throat. But when a violent storm turns the boundary between their camps into a dam, survival forces them to cross the division they created and save one another. They eventually leave the island together, but only Serrano reaches land alive.



Production Profile

A contained historical drama built around:

- *Two principal performers*
- *One primary island location*
- *A limited supporting cast*
- *A shipwreck opening and rescue finale*
- *Realistic weather, fire and water effects created primarily on set*

The restricted setting creates production efficiency while giving the film the scale and visual identity of an epic.