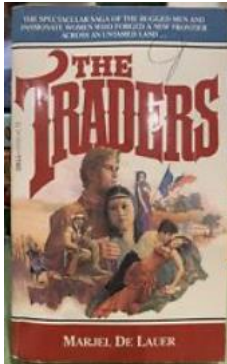


The Traders

Historical Drama Series



A Scottish mutineer, a Mexican American nobleman and a ravishing Mexican courtesan wager their lives in the untamed American Southwest and help launch the destiny of a new nation.

Pilot Synopsis: A Boy from Glasgow



While onboard the new English clipper ship, the *Vesteen*, a young boy, **CARLIN NAPIER**, listens with rapt attention at the knee of **CAPTAIN WALDREN**, as the man spins magical tales of sailing around the world.

Fast forward twenty years to the aged rails and bored crew of the *Vesteen*. Equally weathered Lieutenant Carlin Napier is appalled to spyglass Waldren, now a corrupt, bloated man, accept cash from an American captain as hundreds of kidnapped and opium-drugged Chinese soon-to-be-slaves are loaded onto the *Vesteen*.

At great personal and professional risk, Carlin sneaks food and water to the prisoners and befriends their elder, **CHANG LI**. Carlin is horrified to stand by, helpless in his uniformed role, as Chinese men die each day from the inhumane circumstances he knows he, too, is culpable for.



Sixty survivors are whipped into nets, loaded like bales of cotton and lowered down to waiting longboats and transferred to the slave buyer's brigantine. As the final dozen are hoisted into the net, the Coast Guard rounds the bend. To protect what's left of his sullied reputation, Waldren cuts the ropes, jettisoning a dozen prisoners, screaming and clawing, unable to escape the netting as they plunge into the ocean.



Even the most hardened sailors stand silent, ashen. Carlin can bear no more. He attacks the Waldren with blind fury. Walden orders his bosun to lash Carlin and throw him overboard.

Waldren reminds the crew that Carlin's father is his best friend and to protect him from the shame of his own son's cowardice, the official record will reflect that Carlin fell overboard and drowned.

Hungover from a night in a San Francisco brothel, **HERNANDO DUNDEE**, the Mexican American son of a wealthy ranching family, leads a caravan of his father's freight wagons along the seaside road to Santa Barbara. His partner, **JAKE ANDERSON**, notices buzzards overhead. They find Carlin washed ashore, near dead, face down in the sand, back blistered with sunburned whip marks. But he's alive. Barely. They load the unconscious stranger up and head for Santa Barbara, where the cantina and bordello frantically ready for Hernando and his freight.



Two women anticipate Hernando's attention: spoiled and entitled **DOLORES CASTIAGA**, Hernando's intended wife, and **FELICIA MONTEZ**, the Mexican beauty who has scraped her way up from Lady of the Night to the Madam of the House who truly loves the notorious scoundrel. In a rush to pursue his own pleasure in town, Hernando drops Carlin off with **MAMA IGNACIO**, a local store owner, to nurse this mystery man back to health. En route to his beloved bordello, Hernando has a confrontation with an irate

Waldren, who is in town for supplies. Hernando and Jake recognize the captain's naval clothing and put two and two together, realizing Carlin's life is in danger. Hernando whisks Carlin away with them to in Tucson...