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TERRY DEARY



TERRIBLE TRUE TALES

PIRATES

Inside illustrations by Helen Flook

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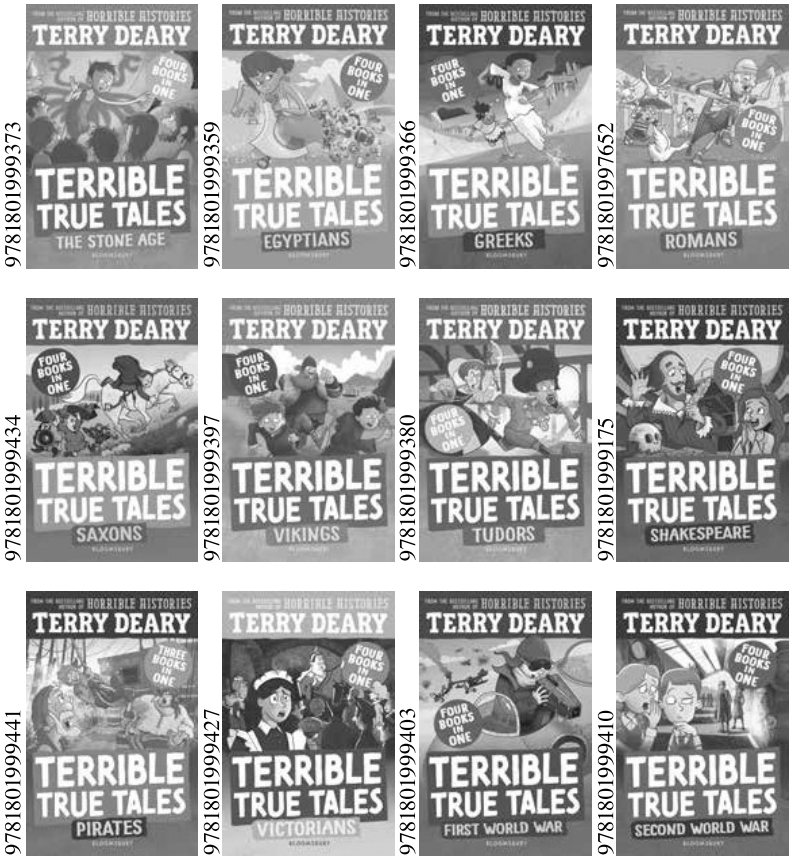
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Terry Deary is the author of over 200 fiction and non-fiction books, which have been published in 32 languages. His non-fiction has been consistently in the best-seller lists since 1994. His *Horrible Histories* series celebrated their 30th anniversary in 2023, having sold over 30 million copies worldwide and been adapted as a movie, a television series, theatre tours and museum exhibitions.

The Pirate Captain



Chapter One
Seas and Slaughter

The North Atlantic, 1726

Captain Fly was a small man. Not as small as a fly, of course, but not much larger than a boy.



"I am the terror of the Atlantic Ocean!" he boasted. "In fact, I may be the greatest terror of the seven seas!"

"What seas are those, then, Captain?" his greasy-haired, bare-footed, bear-brained, bullying mate Mr Blood wanted to know.

"Seas?"

"Yes, Captain Fly. What are the *seven* seas?" Blood asked.

"Well, there's the North Atlantic... and the *South* Atlantic, of course."



"Of course," his ugly friend Mr Slaughter nodded. "But what about the other five?"

"The Pacific Ocean... and that makes *seven*."

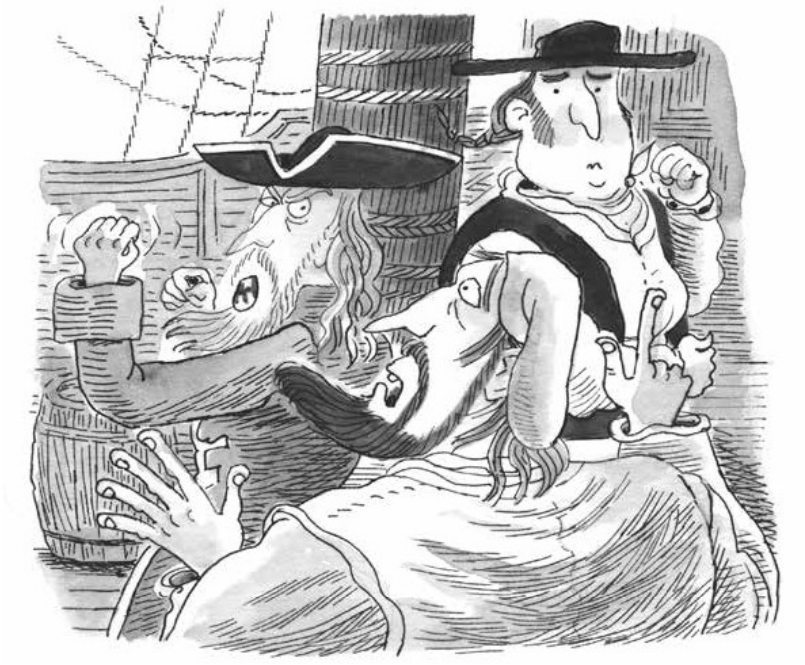


"Three," Mr Blood corrected.

Fly turned as red as a cockerel's comb. He waved his short, dirty fingers under Blood's nose and counted. "North... one... Atlantic... two... South... three... Atlantic... four... The... five... Pacific... six... Ocean... seven. Seven seas, *see*?"

"Suppose," Mr Blood grumbled.

"Suppose?" Captain Fly sneered. "Nobody argues with William Fly. I was a boxing champion, you know."



"I know."

"And I'll pummel anybody that argues with me." The captain turned suddenly towards Slaughter. "You're bigger than me, Slaughter, but I could pummel you."

He waved a fist under the sailor's broken nose. "I'm fast. Fast Fly they used to call me in the boxing ring. Champion of America, I was. Fast Fly."

"Too fast for me, Captain," Slaughter chuckled. "Too fast for any man on the three seas."

"Seven seas," Fly said.

"Yes, them as well."

Captain Fly turned back to Blood. "Now fetch the prisoners on deck. It's time I gave them their orders."