Opening extract from

Pirateology

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June 1st, 1726 — Grand Banks, Newfoundland

At about 8 o'clock this morning, the Bold Adventure abruptly changed direction and made straight for the Sea Cat. The pirates must have decided that they cannot outrun us and so will take us on in battle.

Through my glass I can see Drummond's crew hoisting the Jolly Roger to the top of the mainmast and a bright red flag from the mizzen. They are preparing to fight us each one to the very last man, with no quarter to be given or taken on either side. And though they row the oars of their galley fiercely, propelling themselves against the wind to bring themselves alongside us, my resolution is unshaken. My cannon is ready, my powder is dry, and my men all eager for action! I shall at last have the chance to help make these seas, upon which so many depend for their trade and livelihoods, a safer place.

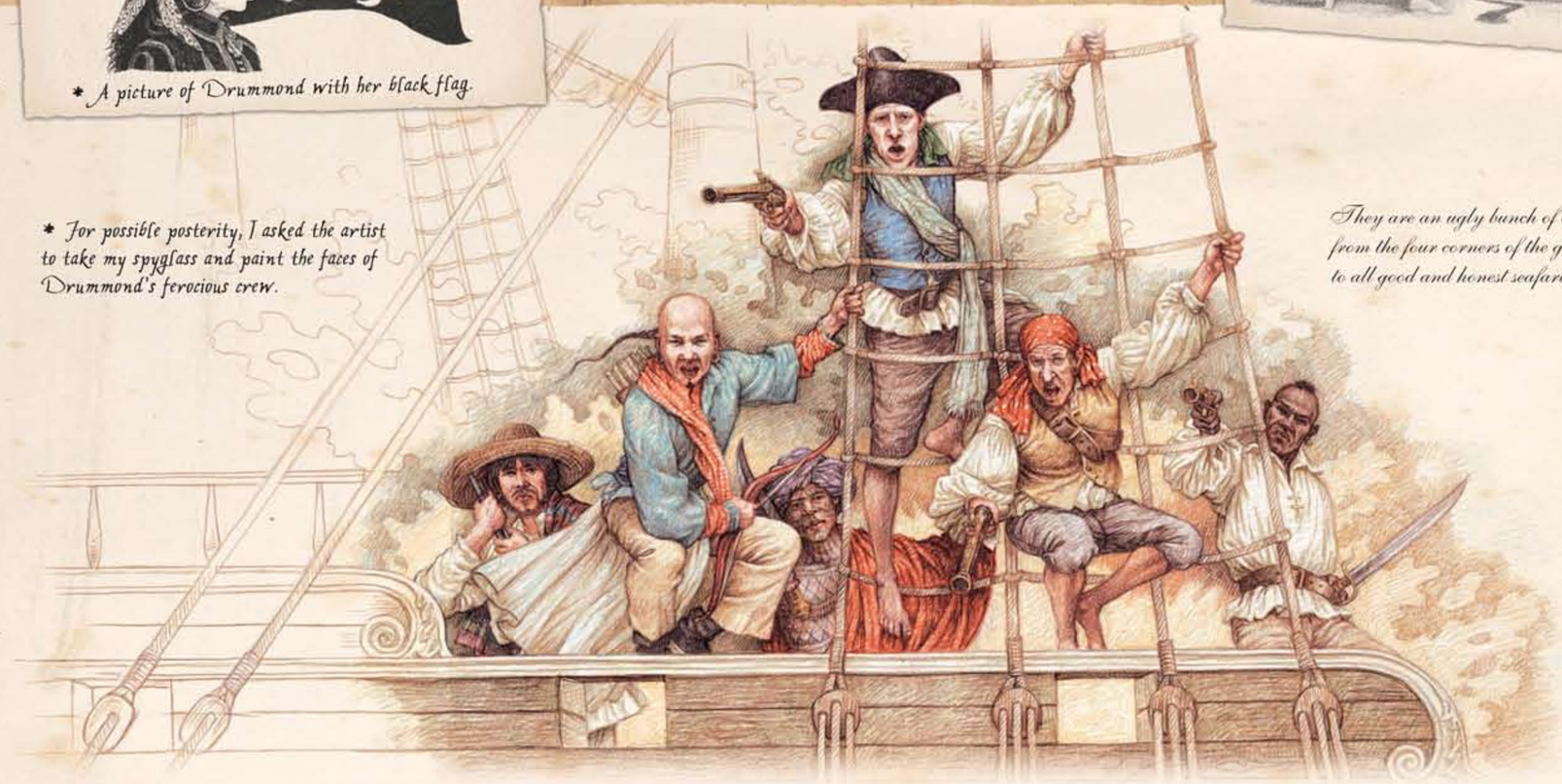


* A picture of Drummond with her black flag.

* I see now that the castaway was also part of Drummond's plot. I found him with a slow match in the powder store clutching the treasure that he had given me. Surely he meant to blow us to pieces! I shall deal with him later. Now I must rouse my men so that they keep up their courage under fire.



* For possible posterity, I asked the artist to take my spyglass and paint the faces of Drummond's ferocious crew.



They are an ugly bunch of desperate renegades from the four corners of the globe and a danger to all good and honest seafaring men.

The ship's cat and the pirate's parrot



Onboard Animals

Through my spyglass I can see Drummond's ship's cat, the notorious Mr Teach, teasing our castaway's parrot, which has flown over to her ship, almost as though it was home to him! This made me wonder if our castaway was all that he seemed. Was he instead a spy placed among us? Now I can see Drummond clearly, she looks very like my first cabin boy in disguise.

Drummond's Deception

On giving Drummond a second look through my spyglass I see I have been twice deceived. She disguised herself as both a cabin boy and a lady naturalist, no doubt to find out my strengths. Moreover, our castaway has disappeared. I found what I believe to be the missing piece of the treasure map in his hammock. He would be surprised to know that one of his old shipmates had given me the other half.



* I shall place everything into my chest for safekeeping, and seal it, in case we do not survive this day. At least that way there shall be some record of our findings.

Our Prayer Before Battle

Thou, O Lord, art just and powerful: defend our cause against the face of the enemy. O God, thou art a strong tower of defence to all who fly unto thee: save us from the violence of the enemy. O Lord, arise, help us, and deliver us for thy name's sake. Amen.

October 25th, 1723 — Off Tortuga

We have tracked Drummond to the Caribbean and, on our way to Jamaica, are now sailing just north of the island of Tortuga, once the base of a confederation of buccaneers called the Brethren of the Coast.

Three years ago, small-time pirate Calico Jack Rackham was captured and brought to justice in Port Royal, Jamaica, our next port of call. Calico Jack got his name from his custom of wearing bright clothes made of printed Indian cotton, or calico. He was not alone in his outlandish dress. Pirates in general, while they frequently wear the head-scarves, short jackets, striped shirts, and wide trousers of ordinary seamen, often take ships carrying cargoes of silks and other cloths. Having plenty of time at sea to sew, they enjoy making these into all manner of showy garments. Thankfully, this custom makes them all the easier to detect.



François L'Ollonais
Born Jean-David Nau, active 1657–1668

* François L'Ollonais was one of the cruellest of the buccaneers of Tortuga. He would sometimes torture his victims to find out where their gold was hidden.



The Fort of Tortuga

Once Fort de Rocher protected the buccaneers of Tortuga from the Spanish. Now that the buccaneers are gone, it is unlikely that Arabella Drummond would bury her treasure here.



* Pirates infinitely prefer gold and jewels to bales of cloth, however gaudy.



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Anne Bonny, the ferocious female Caribbean pirate

"No prey, no pray!"
—The Buccaneers' Code



Buccaneers smoking meat on Hispaniola

Barbary Corsair



* Barbary corsairs wear the traditional dress of the Muslim lands of the North African coast.

Caribbean Pirate



* The flamboyant dress of a Caribbean pirate shows that he will happily stoop to stealing a few bales of cloth.

Chinese Pirate



* Chinese pirates often wear long pigtails and carry bows, knives, and short, curved swords.

Pirates from around the World

Study well these images of pirates, so you will know if you ev



Anne Bonny & Mary Reid

Drummond is one of several women who have dressed as men and become pirates—from Ireland's Grace O'Malley to Anne Bonny and Mary Reid. The latter were both fierce fighters who sailed with Calico Jack. In fact, they were the only two crew members to put up resistance when his ship was taken, the men being too drunk to fight. Convicted of piracy, they escaped being hanged by "pleading their bellies"—both were pregnant. After the trial, Bonny visited Calico Jack in his cell, where he was awaiting execution. "I'm sorry to see you like this, Jack," she said. "But if you had fought like a man, then you needn't be hanged like a dog."

Buccaneers

The fierce buccaneers originated as French and English settlers on the islands of Hispaniola and Cuba. They got their name through their habit of preserving meat by smoking it ("boucaner" in French). Driven out by the Spanish, many moved to the island of Tortuga, where they formed a confederation called the Brethren of the Coast and robbed Spanish ships sailing through the Windward Passage. They were finally driven out, and some of them became woodcutters on the mainland along the coast of the Bay of Campeche.