

PIRATE PLAY

ACTORS:

CAPTAIN BULLY HAIES, TALL WITH STRIKING RED HAIR AND A SHARP TEMPER. 40

ANNE BONNEY HAIES, TALL SHORT BLACK HAIR, SUPER PRETTY, CAPTAIN BULLYS DAUGHTER. 16

MARY REED HAIES, BULLY'S WIFE, TALL, CURLY HAIR, VERY PROTECTIVE. 39

CHARLOTTE BERRY HAIES, GORGEOUS DAUGHTER OF BULLY, TALL BOBBED BLOND HAIR, BLUE EYES. 10

CAPTAIN THOMAS PAIN, TALL, STRIKING RED HAIR, SHARP TEMPER, BULLY'S RIVAL. 18

BEC DE HAMPTON, YOUNGEST PRINCESS OF ENGLAND, SHORT, 4 YEARS OLD, EXQUISITE BROWN TIGER EYES.

ACT I, SCENE I

ENTER CAPTAIN BULLY.

Narrator: Captain Bully, strikes a dashing and somewhat intimidating character as he strides up and down the stern of his ship, the Mary Reed, named after his wife. Scanning the horizon, he notices, with some anxiety, a familiar ship.

Mary: Bully, dear, what is the matter?

Narrator: Mary notices the ship shadowed by the setting sun.

Bully: Looks like Thomas is upon us again, what will he ask for this time?

Narrator: Mary turns from her husband, hurriedly scanning the ship for Anne, their 16 year old daughter. She is up in the crow nest looking to the setting sun. Bully's eyebrows draw together in an angry scowl.

Bully: Get her down now.

Mary: She has the right to like a guy.

Narrator: Bully turns to face his wife, his scowl darkening his usually handsome face.

Bully: Not this one.

Mary: You can't stop a girlish fetish.

Narrator: Bully turns to face the west, the sun lighting his dark features for a second. If Mary had looked closely she would have seen a tear glistening on his cheek.

Anne jumps from the crow's nest, landing nimbly on the mid part of the ship. Only just having found out that Bully was her father, Anne was still not totally obedient to him. Anne had been brought up on an all female pirate ship with toughness and rough language. This serves her well in her arguments with her father, who at this point taps her on the shoulder. She jumps and turns sharply on her heel to face her him. She speaks with a thick Irish burr, having grown up on an Irish ship.

Anne: Och, father, are you going to tell me I have ter marry a landlubber?

Narrator: At that Bully loses his temper, he shouts and rages at his daughter on the inside. Instead of shouting at her, however, he attempts to calmly tell her his thoughts.

Bully: Don't use that language on my ship. We are upper English pirates.

Anne: You mean privateer. Take Thomas Pain, for example. He is a real pirate. And he is ruthless and keeps the loot. He doesn't pay taxes. And most of our money goes to the government.

Narrator: Bully clenches and unclenches his hands until his wilful daughter faded from sight and his temper had subsided. Turning he stalks to the Bilge, the lowest part of the ship. He slips into bed beside his wife, quietly lest he

wake her. Sighing, he turned to look at the bulk of his youngest daughter, Charlotte Berry, an obedient 10 year old with whom he had not hit any difficulty yet.

ACT II SCENE I

Charlotte: Daddy?

Narrator: Bully turned to face his daughter, wondering why the sun was full. He has overslept! He was always up at the crack of dawn. Anne usually awakened him with her ranting whilst swabbing the deck. This time there was no noise at all.

Charlotte: Daddy, Anne is not here. I cannot have breakfast without her.

Bully: Where is she?

Charlotte: Gone.

Bully: What!!!

Narrator: Anne indeed was gone, as was the little skiff and a weeks' worth of food and water. Also missing were 3 guns and 100 shots worth of ammunition. Bully pulls out his telescope and looks to Thomas' ship which was moored 10 miles away, sure enough Anne's skiff was tied to the side of the BLACK DEATH.

Bully: That girl has chosen the wrong man to mess with.

Mary: Husband, do not be too hard on her. She felt she wasn't given enough freedom. She's not the 4 year old you gave up. She is a woman now, with a mind of her own.

Narrator: This bristles Bully's worn temper. He retorts with more anger than he means to.

Bully: I gave her up? No, woman, you made me give her up!

Narrator: Mary runs to the other end of the ship sobbing, throwing over her shoulder as she run:

Mary: I might as well join our daughter, and our son.

Bully: Don't you dare say that imbecile is our son! We were newly married - I didn't want children then!

Mary: I would have expected more from you, Bully Haies!

Act II Scene II

Narrator: Mary, having flung this last angry remark at her husband, storms from the main deck. Meanwhile, Anne is learning more about this pirate, Captain Thomas Pain. She finds out he was an abandoned child who, at the age of ten, had run from the nasty place where he was kept as a slave. Stealing a skiff, a basket of apples and a barrel of rum, he sailed around for a month until he was hauled on to a pirate ship. This ship he took single handily, when he slipped a sleeping potion into their drinks, and chucked their sleeping bodies over board. He ran the ship without a crew up 'till that day that Anne came on board. He gave her a cabin to stay in, with the intention of holding her ransom. Imagine his surprise when she locks him in his cabin with nothing and steers the ship away.

Thomas: Let me out you little wench!

Narrator: Thomas immediately wishes he hadn't spoken, for the minute the words leaves his mouth, a knife hits the wood near his ear. He turns his head, eyebrows up, surprised to see night has fallen. He was even more surprised when the slim silhouette drops lightly beside him, pulling the knife from the wood. Pinning him against the wall with the knife at his throat, Anne sneers at him, saying:

Anne: I heard so many stories about the famous captain Thomas Pain, yet they were all perjury! Och, I guess that I could do a few things to make the tall stories shorter, what do you think of that?

Thomas: You will not be leaving this ship, you harpy, I will keep you here as my prisoner!

Narrator: Anne looks at him at him sceptically, one eyebrow raised as she answers:

Anne: Yeah you're really in the position to order me to stay aren't you?

Narrator: Before Thomas could answer, Mary's voice was heard, as she calls for her daughter.

Anne: Don't move. Oh I forgot you can't.

Narrator: Laughing cruelly, Anne stalks to the stern, and meets her parents face to face.

Bully: What do you think you were doing associating with the enemy?

Anne: Dad, number one: I came here to talk, not to listen, or be told off, and number two: seriously?! I am 16. I am not the little girl *you* chose to give away, not mum, not anyone but *you*.

Narrator: Though he smarts slightly at Anne's words, Bully tries to put on a light appearance.

Bully: Dear, dear, you have got your facts wrong, haven't you? I would never do such a thing. I wouldn't put it past your mother though, a pirate through and through!

Mary: Bully Haies! You slimy, rotten backstabber! I cried the entire night you gave her away. Anne, you must believe me I didn't.....

Narrator: Mary is cut off when Anne turns around, eyes blazing.

Anne: Dad, you are the worst pirate I ever met! You can't even lie well! I have a letter from you to my foster parents, I stole it the night I ran from her and found you. (Mimicks Bully) Dear Megan, like you know I can't care for this child. Thank you for agreeing to do so. When she is sixteen you will get the ten thousand pounds for your pay.

Narrator: Bully turns his back on his family, his eyes fill with fire.

Bully: He is your brother.

Narrator: Anne looks blank until understanding dawns on her. Without another word she runs to the captain's cabin. When she returns, Thomas is at her side, eyebrows up and arms crossed.

After a tearful reunion with his mother and a stony greeting with his father, Thomas turns to his younger sister, about to greet her when he notices Charlotte, holding hands with a ginger haired girl. Recognising her as Beck de Hampton, the youngest princess, he turns to her instead, and immediately invites her to become part of the family.

The end.

Epilogue

Twelve years later Bully retires to a seaside home in Ireland, leaving the piracy to his children and grandchildren.

Thomas, his eldest, marries two years after the reunion, aged 20 and now has three children, all aged 7.

Anne, his second child, marries, at the same time as her brother, aged 18, and now has two adorable twins, aged 6.

Charlotte, his adored third child, is now 22 and engaged to marry a privateer.

Finally Beck, aged 16, found the pirate life suited her well.