

Not Your Mother's Library Transcript

Episode 47: A Pirate's Life for Me

(Brief intro music)

Rachel: (in a pirate-y voice) Ahoy, matey, and welcome to Not Your Mother's Library, a readers' advisory podcast from the Oak Creek Public Library. I be yer capt'in, Rachel.

Mary: (also using a pirate-y voice) And I'm first-mate Mary.

Rachel: Aarrgh, if ye haven't noticed, me hearties, we be soundin' a bit different this episooode. That's because Talk Like a Pirate Day is comin' up! Me and my trusty first mate thought it'd help to find our sea legs by hostin' things with a funny accent. So, batten down the hatches, hoist the Jolly Roger, and join us old salts as we recommend tales o' the high seas. There's bound t'be booty—in the form of books, not doubloons! We'll give no quarter. Mary, ya scurvy dog, take the helm.

[ship bell sound effect]

Mary: Happy be I to give ya the scuttlebutt o' some sea farin' reads! To cast us out to sea, I'll be askin' ya to read "A Clash of Steel: A Treasure Island Remix" by C.B. Lee. The sun be settin' on the golden age o' piracy, 'n' the legendary Dragon Fleet, the scourge o' the South China Sea, be no more. Its ruthless leader, a wench known only as the Head o' the Dragon, be now only a tale, like the ones Xiang has grown up wit' all her life. She desperately wants t'prove her worth, especially t'her mother, a shrewd turner o' coins who ne'er seems t'ave enough time fer Xiang. Her father be also only a tale, dead at sea before Xiang was born. Her single memento o' 'im be a pendant she always wears, a simple but plain piece o' gold jewelry. But the pendant's true nature be revealed when a mysterious poppet named Anh plunders it, only t' return it ta' Xiang in exchange fer her help in decodin' the wee map scroll hidden inside. The revelation that Xiang's father sailed wit' the Dragon Fleet 'n' tucked away his secret changes everything. Rumor has it that the legendary Head o' the Dragon had one last booty—the plunder o' a thousand ports—that fer decades has only been a myth...a fool's journey. Xiang be convinced this map could lead t'the fabled booty. Captivated wit' the thrill o' adventure, she joins Anh 'n' her

motley crew off in pursuit o' the island. But the lasses soon find that the sea—'n' especially those who sail it—are far more dangerous than the legends led 'em t'believe. Let me spin ya a yarn regardin' my second reco'mendat'n, a readalike to the previous tale. Go get you a copy o' "The Mermaid, The Witch, and the Sea" by Maggie Tokuda-Hall. The pirate Florian, born Flora, has always done whatever it takes t' survive—including sailin' under false flags on the Dove as a marauder, thief, 'n' worse. Beauty Evelyn Hasegawa, a highborn Imperial daughter, be on board as well—accompanied by her own casket! But Evelyn's one-way voyage t'an arranged marriage in the Floatin' Islands be interrupted when the cap'n 'n crew show their true colors 'n' enslave their wealthy passengers. Both Florian and Evelyn have lived their lives by the rules 'n' whims of others. But when they fall in love, they parlay t'take fate into their own hands no matter the cost.

[Herring gull and ocean waves sound effect]

Rachel: Aye-aye, those all sound good to me, matey. Like a siren song! Ye-arr. My firs' rec-o'-mendation is for our younger crew members, a picture book by the name of "Pirate Stew." It be written by the master yarn spinner 'imself, Neil Gaiman. "Meet Long John McRon, ship's cook...and the most unusual babysitter ye've ever seen! Long John 'as a whole crew o' wild pirates in tow, and—for one boy and 'is sister—'e's about to transform a perfectly ord'nary evening into a riotous adventure." This book be silly an' entertainin', featurin' flyin' ships, doughnut feasts, and some rather magical stew. The text rhymes, and Chris Riddell's illustrations be downright spellbindin'. If ye be wantin' to listen along, an audiobook version is available through Libby an' 'oopla. Err...I mean t'say 'Hoopla'. These e-Readin' date-o-bases arrrr free to read to any landlubber with a library caaaarrd. Me next wreck is "P Is for Pirate: A Pirate Alphabet" by Eve Bunting. Buntin' were one o' me favorite writers when I were a wee lass—a true sea dog, she was. This book is for slightly older scuttlers, those 'oo be in middle school. Listen up, me 'earties: "The word pirate means one 'oo plunders the sea, and piracy 'as been around for as long as men and women have longed fer adventure and lusted fer riches. But it weren't all fun and pillagin'! Being a pirate was not an easy life. Poetry an' expository text are used in this alphabetical examination of the history o' piracy. Topics include legendary ships, fabled 'ideouts, and notorious villains like Edward Teach, also known as Blackbeard." This

book “includes the pirate code o’ conduct as well as the different occupations aboard ship.” If ye don’t want t’walk the plank and be shark bait, you’ll read this one from front t’back! Me next wreck fer you dingy lot is “Let’s Explore a Pirate Ship” by the privateer Nicholas ’arris. “Come discoverrrr the complex inner-workings of a pirate ship, from the roaring raids on a Spanish galleon t’the salvage mission of a sunken vessellll. From the outer decks to th’ crew’s quarters, this book reveals every part o’ pirate life. Beautiful an’ intricate illustrations show the smallest details and will even cause some laughs as you notice funny scenes hidden inside the ship. Peek behind decks, windows, and ’ulls to unfold pan-orrr-amic foldouts of four unbelievably detailed scenes. Then, on th’ next pages, you’ll find a breakdown o’ each scene with clear explanations, interestin’ facts, and even more illustrations so learnin’ is easy an’ fun!” The scallywag illustrator Brian Lee is known fer bein’ all hands hoay with ’is fascinatin’ drawings and inside looks into archicheticurrre. ’e’s a proper’ buccaneer, so pick up a copy or else you’ll be given the black spot and keelhauled!

[fog horn sound effect]

Mary: Oh aye, the wee recruits will love them books. Books are all well an’ good, but some of us might not know how to read, if ye catch me drift.

Rachel: Arr.

Mary: Movies be the next best thing! My first pick to wet yer whistle is “Black Sails,” a TV show for the swashbucklers who be cravin’ some high-seas action! The year be 1715. New Providence Island be a lawless territory, controlled by notorious pirate cap’ns. The most feared be Cap’n Flint. Wouldn’t cha kno’ the British Navy returns t’ exterminate Flint ’n’ his crew, another side o’ ’im emerges. He mateys himself with Eleanor Guthrie, daughter o’ the local kingpin, t’ensure their survival. Many opponents stand in their way: rival cap’ns; Eleanor’s father; ’n’ John Silver, recently crimped onto Flint’s crew, who constantly undermines his cap’n’s agenda. The stars of the screen be Toby Stephens, Jessica Parker Kennedy, Luke Arnold, Zach McGowan, and Hannah New. Thar be four seasons to plunder, so get yer lily-livered hide over to check out the first season! If you be lookin’ for a tried and true, a watchalike be “Pirates of the Caribbean.” If you’ve not seen this saga o’ swashbucklin, rowdy sea dogs, well shiver me timbers! Cap’n Jack,

a man who be after his own interests, and Will Turner, who be thirstin' to prove himself and his love, race across the seas to save the beauty who is Elizabeth Swan. Miss Swan be the daughter of the Governor of Port Royal, Jamaica, who is stolen by a crew of cursed pirates who sail across the seas to an island that don't exist except to those who already know where it is.

Rachel: Whoar...

Mary: Starring Johnny Depp, Orlando Bloom, and Kiera Knightly, thar be three more movies to enjoy! They be "Dead Man's Chest," "At World's End," and "On Stranger Tides." Tell me ya won't miss a bit o' this gold, ya lazy landlubber!

[opening wooden chest sound effect followed by sword clang sound effect]

Rachel: I be up in the crow's nest peerin' through me spyglass for the next few wrecks! What we 'ave 'ere is "Cut Throat Island," a cin-e-matic marvell from the mid-1990s directed by Renny Harlin. "A female pirate and 'er companion race against their rivals to find a hidden island that contains a fabulous treasure." Now, ye might be thinkin' t'yerself, 'Cap'in, that sounds like any ol' hogwash! Ain't that story been told before? Well, ya freebooters, empty yer coffers and get back to swabbin' the poop deck! This 'idden gem is more than just yer average tall tale! There be comedy, an' romance, an' so much action you'll be entranced the moment yer castaway! And a lady captain, to boot! Morgan Adams is a swashbucklin' lass after me own wretched heart. For a watch'o'like, I always set me sails for 1985's "The Goonies" directed by Richard Donner. Fer those o' you 'oo ain't seen this cult classic, all ye need to know is that "a group o' young misfits called The Goonies discover an ancient map and set out on an adventure to find a legendary pirate's long-lost treasure." One-eyed Willy be an old mate o' mine, and though 'e may now be well acquainted with Davey Jones in the briny deep, 'e's still a proper laddy. Well sink me! I almost fergot about me new obsession, a streamin' show called "Our Flag Means Death." "The year is 1717. Wealthy land-owner Stede Bonnet 'as a midlife crisis and decides to blow up his cushy life to become a pirate. It does not go well." Blackbeard even makes an appearance, an' he's played by the incorrigible Taika Waititi. This show be 'ilarious, but it also punches ye in th'gut. Many o' the characters—or 'crew' as we call 'em—are queer, and that kind o' representation be more beautiful than all th'gold bein' ferried 'cross the seven seas. So,

don't hornswozzle yerself by missin' out on the treasure. Just finish th'rigging and join me in a toast to "Our Flag," be it with grog or a clap o' thunder. Fire in the 'ole, as they say!

[cannon fire sound effect]

Mary: Heave ho! That be all we have fer today, mateys. We 'ope you enjoyed this episode. Remember t'check the show notes for a list of everything we just palavered about. Don't 'ang the jib—we won't leave you marooned! We'll be back next month with more mutinies. Ye can subscribe and rate the podcast if ye like what ye hear. As always, reach out through the Oak Creek Public Library website or Facebook page by sending a message in a bottle to @OakCreekLibrary. Hopefully the merfolk won't intercept! Until the next high-seas adventure, 'appy reading.

Rachel and Mary: Avast!

(Brief outro music)

Rachel: (in a vaguely pirate-y voice) Can't remember what voice I used. Was it this?

Mary: (also using a pirate-y voice) Was a little lower.

Rachel: (lowers register) Was a little lower. All right. (laughs)

Mary: (normal voice) There we go.

Rachel: (also using normal voice) Okay. Thanks, first mate.

Mary: (laughs) Please put that in as the bloopers.

Rachel and Mary: (laugh)

Rachel: (inhales long but shallow) Ah, that would be good. Heh.