

THE PIRATE MEDALLION

By Martin A. Follose

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

(10 Females, 7 Males, Extras)

SALLY: Young girl who lives for adventure. She is the great-great-great granddaughter of Lady Pirate Bobby Anne.

TOM: Young man and friend to Sally. Not as brave or as adventurous as Sally.

THE “GOOD” PIRATES:

CAPTAIN FINCH: The pirate captain of the ship “The Black Madness.”

SQUEAKER: One of Captain Finch’s original crew members. His voice is squeaky, hence his name.

HECTOR: Another original crew member of Captain Finch and a bit smarter than Squeaker.

OLD PIRATE: Narrator. (Optional voice only.)

THE LADY PIRATES:

BOBBY ANNE: The leader of the lady pirates. Her father wanted a boy and treated her like one. She is an excellent swordswoman.

ROSIE: A close friend and supporter of Bobby Anne.

ALLIE: A lady pirate.

CALLIE: Twin sister of Allie, however they don’t look at all alike. Her and Allie are always fighting.

POLLY: A lady pirate who is rough, tough, and as bad as any man.

LIZZY: A lady pirate.

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SASHA: A lady pirate with a strong feminine side and always flirting with the men.

CLAUDINE: A lady pirate who is unsure about everything.

WINNY: A lady pirate who cries at the drop of a hat and stops just as suddenly.

EXTRA LADY PIRATES: Any number.

THE “BAD” PIRATES:

CAPTAIN MINTEL: Another pirate who is trying to steal the treasure map from Captain Finch. They have been mortal enemies for years.

BEN: A member of Captain Mintel's crew.

JACK: Another member of Captain Mintel's crew.

EXTRA PIRATES: Any number. All members of Captain Mintel's crew.

SETTING

Time: Late 1800s and present day.

Place: Aboard the pirate ship “The Black Madness.”

SET DESCRIPTION

The set is the upper deck of an old pirate ship with barrels, ropes, masts with sails down, wooden buckets, crates, etc. There is a railing upstage that runs the full length of the stage. This is the port (left) side of the ship and must be strong enough so that Tom and Sally can climb over it and tall enough so that they cannot be seen before climbing over. There is a rope that hangs over the railing that is used to climb up. Stage right is an optional raised area with stairs/ladder and, if possible,

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a door or two can be on each side of the stairs/ladder, leading to below deck. A pirate flag flies from a pole attached to the raised area or from any place on stage. There is a concealed fan pointed at the flag to make it wave. A large inverted funnel attached to the fan will help direct the wind at the flag. A ship's bell is placed anywhere on stage. Stage left is the bow (front part of the ship). An optional mast could be center stage and a sail could be raised or tied down from it. Additional sails would be effective but not necessary.

SOUND/SPECIAL EFFECTS

Whispers from the past, water lapping against the ship when docked, ship crashing through waves at sea, wind, creaking, cannon shot and splash. Fog is a great effect during the opening fight scene and when Tom and Sally first enter. Several large fans placed on one side of the stage and turned on at different times during the final scene will add to the urgency. Increase the windstorm sound effect as the fans are turned on.

ABOUT THE SWORD FIGHTS

The sword fights can be as simple or as intricate as desired. All fights should be carefully choreographed and all safety precautions should be taken. A good rule to remember with choreographing sword fights is: Less is more. The full battle scenes are much more difficult to choreograph. Make sure that each duel has an area that they are to stay within so as not to hurt anyone near them.

PROPERTIES

ONSTAGE:

Railing on Port Side
Raised Area with Stairs or Ladder (Optional)
Barrels
Crates

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Mast
Sails
Ropes
Ship's Bell
Pirate Flag
At Least Two Cannons

BROUGHT ON, ACT I:

Bandana (SALLY)
Swords (PIRATES)
Treasure map (FINCH)
Half a Torn Treasure Map (SALLY)
Medallion (BOBBY)
Hats (LADY PIRATES)
Mustaches (LADY PIRATES)
Beards (LADY PIRATES)
Bandanas (LADY PIRATES)
Bags of Personal Items (LADY PIRATES)
Extra Swords (LADY PIRATES)

CANNON LOADING ITEMS:

Sponge
Cartridge (A Cloth Bag of Powder)
Rammer
Cannon Ball
Pick
Powder Horn

BROUGHT ON, ACT II:

Rope to Tie Squeaker (SQUEAKER)
Gag (SQUEAKER)
Treasure chest filled with treasure (LADY PIRATES)

ABOUT THE PIRATE FLAG: The pirate flag is an important stage prop. It must not wave when Tom and Sally first enter but it must wave when Sally and Tom travel back in time. A fan with a large inverted funnel attached will direct the air at the flag. Make sure the fan is concealed.

ABOUT THE CANNONS: The cannons can be constructed using large coffee cans with the bottoms cut out and several taped together. A carriage can easily be constructed out of wood. There are six steps to perform when firing a cannon: (1.) sponge, (2.) load cartridge, (3.) load cannon ball, (4.) rammer, (5.) clear the vent hole, (6.) and aim. The sponge is a wooden cylinder, covered with lambskin, on

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the end of a pole. It is dipped in water and then inserted into the barrel of the cannon. This is to put out any sparks that may remain in the barrel. The sponge would be pressed hard against the back of the barrel and then twisted several times in each direction. Next the cartridge bag, a cloth bag consisting of a measure of powder, would be placed in the cannon. A cannon ball was then inserted and a rammer used to pack it in tight. The rammer is a wooden cylinder attached to the end of a pole, much like the sponge, but is not covered with lambskin. The rammer would be pulled out of the barrel about an arm's length and then, with a swift push, be rammed back into the barrel packing the contents tight. With the cannon loaded, a pick (sometimes called a priming wire) would be stuck in the vent hole to both clean it out and to rip open the cartridge bag. The cannon would then be aimed. The final step would be to pour fine powder in the vent hole using a powder horn and light it. This would ignite the powder so it would travel down the vent hole and ignite the cartridge. The explosion would send the cannon ball through the cannon's barrel.

COSTUME SUGGESTIONS:

ALL the PIRATE costumes are from the late 1800s. The PIRATES wear a mismatch of torn and dirty clothing, bandanas and pirate hats, and each carries a sword (except for the lady pirates).

CAPTAIN MINTEL and his MEN should be more dirty and rugged, giving them the "bad" pirate look.

CAPTAIN FINCH should dress somewhat nicer and with more color.

The LADY PIRATES should also have fake beards, mustaches, and hide their hair under hats and bandanas when they first enter. Afterwards, they can look like ladies.

SALLY wears normal modern clothing of jeans, t-shirt and tennis shoes.

TOM is dressed in baggy shorts, t-shirts, and tennis shoes. His costume should give him a "nerdy," less confident look.

THE PIRATE MEDALLION

Written by
Martin A. Follöse

ACT I - SCENE 1

AT RISE: The stage is a deck of an old pirate ship with barrels, ropes, masts with sails down, etc. Up stage there is a railing that runs the length of the stage. This railing must be strong enough so that TOM and SALLY can crawl over it when boarding the ship. There is a rope that hangs over the rail that THEY use to pull themselves up. To one side there can be a raised area with stairs / ladder. If possible, a door or two can be on each side of the stairs / ladder, leading to below deck, if the raised deck is high enough. The other side can be the bow of the ship (front part of the ship). A sound effect of water lapping against the ship would add to the effect. The curtain opens with total darkness. ALL CHARACTERS, except the OLD PIRATE, are frozen on stage. A spot light slowly fades in on the OLD PIRATE.

OLD PIRATE: Some say that ships have a soul. That they live and breathe, as any woman would. I say, it be true, for I stand on The Black Madness, a pirate ship that sunk many, many years ago. In her day she was a mighty ship coming through many a battle as the victor. But on one tragic day, she succumbed to a single cannon shot that slowly sunk her. She returns from the depths of the sea as a ghost ship, for she has one last mission to complete, the return, to its rightful owner, the Pirate Medallion.

(Spot light fades and the OLD PIRATE exits. Whispers are heard and a fan is pointed at the pirate flag, which is waving in the breeze. If possible, fog can hang low on the deck. The whispers grow louder. Then slowly the sound of a pirate battle is heard and increases as the lights come up on a blue backdrop giving it a dim glow. We begin to see a pirate battle take place with only the silhouettes of the pirates. We are seeing a hint of the past. The battle rages on for a moment. Then the battle sounds begin to fade and the lights slowly dim to complete darkness. The whispers increase as the battle sounds decrease. As total darkness engulfs the stage, the whispers peak and then begin to fade, as EVERYONE exits the stage. The fan is stopped and the flag stops waving. When the whispers fade out, full lights slowly come up on an empty stage. Fog should stop. We are now in the present.)

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SALLY: *(From off stage.)* Hello! Hello! Anyone aboard? *(Pause. There is no answer.)* Permission to come aboard! *(Again no answer. The rope that is hanging off the railing tightens.)*

TOM: What are you doing?

SALLY: I'm climbing aboard.

TOM: Do you think you should?

SALLY: Come on, where's your sense of adventure?

TOM: I left it at home.

(Slowly SALLY crawls aboard. SHE looks around, then looks over the railing at TOM.)

SALLY: Come on Tom. Hurry up!

(TOM's head appears above the railing.)

TOM: Are you sure we should be doing this?

SALLY: The ship is empty. Don't be so scared.

TOM: I'm not scared. *(HE looks around. Meekly.)* Just cautious.

(TOM crawls aboard as SALLY looks around.)

SALLY: It looks like no one's been aboard for years. This is much better than playing cards, don't you think?

TOM: Until we get caught. *(HE looks around.)* How do you think this ship got in the cove?

SALLY: It must have drifted in with the tide. Hey, look at this. *(SHE holds out the pirate flag that is on a pole.)*

TOM: Pirates! We better get out of here.

SALLY: Relax. Pirates haven't sailed these waters since the 1800's.

TOM: At least not that we know of.

SALLY: This ship must have been drifting for hundreds of years.

TOM: Do you really think that's possible?

SALLY: Do you have a better explanation?

TOM: Well, not right away.

SALLY: Did I ever tell you that my great-great-great-grandmother was once a pirate?

TOM: Your great-great-great-grandmother, was a pirate?

SALLY: And my great-great-great-grandfather was Captain John Finch, one of the most notorious pirates of the time.

TOM: Wow! Your great-great-great-grandfather was a pirate, too.

SALLY: *(SHE finds a pirate bandana. SHE ties the bandana over her head in pirate fashion.)* Can you just imagine how it was, being a pirate?

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TOM: No, it was dangerous.

SALLY: The battles, the adventures, the treasures!

TOM: I don't think a pirate's life was that great. They got scurvy, the ones that got caught were hung, and they never took a bath. Can you imagine how they smelled?

SALLY: *(SHE finds a piece of paper behind a box or something on stage. SHE examines it carefully. Holding up the map.)* Look what I found.

TOM: A piece of paper. Who cares?

SALLY: But look at it, I think it's a treasure map.

TOM: *(Doubting her.)* A treasure map? Just what makes you think that it is a treasure map?

SALLY: Because it has an X on it.

TOM: And that means it's a treasure map?

SALLY: Of course it does, don't you know anything?

TOM: Apparently nothing about treasure maps.

SALLY: It looks like it was torn in half. If we only had the other half, we could find the treasure and be rich.

TOM: Buried treasure was just a myth.

SALLY: Wouldn't it be cool if this map was once held by my great-great-grandmother?

TOM: That is very unlikely.

SALLY: My mom told me that my great-great-great-grandmother once owned a very beautiful medallion. It had a large red ruby in the center with gold around it. It must have been beautiful. She got it from her mother, who got it from her mother, and it was suppose to be handed down to me, but it was stolen. Maybe the medallion became part of the treasure and this is the map that shows where it is. Let's look for the other half of the map down below.

TOM: *(With fear.)* Down below?

SALLY: *(In a pirate voice.)* Don't worry lassie, I'll protect ye.

(TOM shows fear. In her normal voice.)

Come on.

TOM: No way!

SALLY: What's the matter?

TOM: It's dark down there.

SALLY: It's not that dark.

TOM: There's probably cobwebs and dust, and . . . and . . . I'm allergic to dust.

SALLY: Allergic to dust, since when?

TOM: Today. Let's go.

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SALLY: I'm not leaving. I'm going below to look around. You can come with me or stay here.

TOM: You want me to stay up here, alone?

SALLY: Scared?

TOM: I'm not scared, just wary.

SALLY: Are you coming or staying.

TOM: *(Reluctantly.)* I'm staying.

SALLY: Fine.

(SHE exits. The wind comes up again. TOM slowly becomes afraid and starts frantically looking around. We hear whispers, as does TOM, who is really afraid now. The winds get worse and the whispers are louder and louder. The fan is turned on for the flag and the flag whips in the wind. TOM notices the flag and brings attention to it. We have traveled back in time. Fog and/or lighting could be added for effect.)

TOM: Sally! Sally!

(Whispers and wind fade. The flag fan remains on. HE turns to run below and runs in to SALLY who just entered.)

SALLY: What?

TOM: Something happened and I heard whispers and the wind started to blow.

SALLY: Whispers? It was probably the wind. It always blows at the coast.

TOM: It was more than the wind.

SALLY: *(Spookily.)* Maybe they were ghosts from the past.

TOM: *(Showing his fear.)* What!

SALLY: Would you relax? It's just the wind. *(SHE grabs him)* Come with me, I'll protect you.

(THEY exit through one of the doors. Moments later FINCH enters from opposite direction of SALLY and TOM.)

FINCH: *(Excited, holding up a treasure map and shouting.)* I've got it mates. Prepare to get under way. Raise the sails. *(HE rings the ship's bell. Calling.)* All hands aloft! Squeaker! Hector!

(HECTOR and SQUEAKER rush on, not from SALLY and TOM's direction.)

I've got it mates. *(Holds up map again.)* We sail. Get the crew on deck. A treasure awaits!

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(SQUEAKER and HECTOR just look at each other and don't say anything.)

Never mind, I'll get the crew on deck meself. *(FINCH exits, again not in SALLY and TOM'S direction.)*

HECTOR: I not be telling him.

SQUEAKER: Well, I not be telling him.

HECTOR: I had to tell him last time.

SQUEAKER: No, I had to tell him last time.

HECTOR: Rock, paper, scissors?

SQUEAKER: I always lose!

HECTOR: Aye, ye do. 'Tis why I like to do it. Come on bucko, maybe this be yer lucky day. The odds be in yer favor.

SQUEAKER: Oh, very well.

(THEY play rock, paper, scissors. THEY first both do rock then, paper, then scissors. Then SQUEAKER does rock and HECTOR does paper.)

HECTOR: Huzzah! I win again.

SQUEAKER: 'Tis a curse, it is. I always lose. 'Tis like ye can read me mind.

HECTOR: Ye know I can't read.

(FINCH enters.)

FINCH: Whar be the crew?

HECTOR: The crew?

FINCH: Aye! Hector. The crew.

SQUEAKER: The crew?

FINCH: I set ye two to watch over me crew, while I got the map. I have the map, so whar be the crew?

HECTOR: *(Trying to change the subject.)* Ye got the map?

FINCH: Aye, Hector. I have the map.

SQUEAKER: 'Tis a pretty map?

FINCH: *(Realizing what THEY must be doing.)* Don't change the subject. Whar be the crew?

(SQUEAKER and HECTOR remain silent. FINCH steps toward them.)

HECTOR: *(Pushing SQUEAKER forward.)* Ye lost the game. 'Tis yer job to tell him.

FINCH: Tell me what?

SQUEAKER: *(Meekly.)* Ye want to know about the crew?

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FINCH: Aye, I do.

SQUEAKER: Well, thar ain't no crew. *(HE jumps behind HECTOR.)*

FINCH: *(Shouting.)* No crew!

HECTOR: They said they got a better offer.

FINCH: I told ye scoundrels to watch over me crew, to keep them on the Black Madness, not to watch them walk away. We can't let this one get away from us. *(Holding up map again.)* This treasure be more than ye have ever seen. So much treasure, we could give up the pirate life and live like the King of England himself. *(Getting angry.)* But we can't find it without a crew. I give ye three hours to get me a crew, or there will be a flogging.

SQUEAKER: A flogging? On who?

FINCH: The two of ye. And keep the fact we have the treasure map under yer hat.

(SQUEAKER looks under his hat.)

We don't want others to follow us. Three hours, mates, three hours. *(HE exits.)*

SQUEAKER: Well, that went well.

HECTOR: Only if ye'd like a flogging. Now what we be going to do?

We have three hours to get a crew. *(Thinking.)* We will just have to lower our standards. Take some of the less desirables. Well, it's off to the village to round up the scurvy, the wretched . . .

SQUEAKER: Oh, me friends.

HECTOR: Let's go.

(THEY exit. TOM rushes on. SALLY follows.)

TOM: Didn't you hear that?

SALLY: What?

TOM: I heard a ship bell and voices.

SALLY: I told you, it's just the wind and the rocking of the ship probably rang the bell.

TOM: *(Looking for a reason to leave.)* I need to go home. I have a history report due tomorrow.

SALLY: This ship is history. We are seeing what life was like back then. Can't you just imagine all the things that happened on this deck? The battles that this ship survived, the treasures that were loaded in her hull, the men who lived and died here.

TOM: Died?

SALLY: Last night I dreamt that I was in search of buried treasure. The sails were flapping in the wind and the captain was barking orders to his crew. *(As if SHE was captain. Calling out.)* Keep her to the

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wind. *(In normal voice. Continuing her story.)* Then someone called out, *(calling out)* land ho! *(In normal voice.)* We sighted land and after looking at my half of the map, I could tell it was the island where the Treasure of Captain Kidd lies.

TOM: You had a dream about a pirate ship the night before you found a pirate ship?

SALLY: Weird, isn't it? *(Beat.)* My great-great-great-grandmother sailed these seas in search of treasure. I know she found some, and now I want my share. We're wasting time. I have to find the other half of this map. Are you coming or staying up here?

TOM: I'm not staying up here alone.

SALLY: When are you going to stop being so scared?

TOM: I'm not scared, just careful.

SALLY: Are you coming?

TOM: *(Quickly, getting right behind SALLY.)* Right behind you.

(Before SALLY exits SHE sees two swords tucked in a corner somewhere.)

SALLY: Tom, look.

TOM: *(HE is shocked and scared.)* Swords!

(SALLY reaches for a sword.)

(Alarmed.) Don't touch them!

SALLY: Why?

TOM: *(Searching for a reason.)* I don't know, I just don't think you should touch them.

SALLY: Quit being so scared.

TOM: I'm not scared, just guarded.

SALLY: These are really cool.

(SHE takes one and starts doing some swordplay with it. TOM slowly takes one and is impressed. HE also starts doing some swordplay with it.)

This is a typical pirate cutlass sword, with a curved single-edged blade. It looks like it has been well used.

TOM: *(HE is really having a good time. HE raises his sword and arms.)* I'm king of the world.

SALLY: Very funny. You're not even class president. It must have been so exciting to be in a sword fight.

(SHE starts to hit swords with TOM. HE cowers down.)

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TOM: Careful, these things are sharp.

SALLY: (*Speaking like a pirate.*) Come on ye shark bait, landlubber.

Raise ye sword and fight like a man.

TOM: (*Backing up.*) Sally! Remember I bleed easily.

(*SALLY begins to sword fight with TOM. As before, the fight can be as simple or as complicated as desired. TOM is always on the run. Hiding behind things and cowardly defending himself.*)

SALLY: (*As the sword fight continues.*) Whar be the other half of the treasure map? Speak or have yer tongue cut out. (*More fighting.*)

The treasure belongs to me and me crew and we aim to have it.

(*More fighting.*) Whar be the map?

(*TOM can ad lib screams and "Sally!", "Sally, stop it or you are going to hurt me," etc. Then finally SALLY has her sword to his chest. TOM is afraid that SALLY is going to run him through.*)

TOM: (*Shouting.*) Sally!

SALLY: (*In a normal, calm voice.*) Yes, Tom.

TOM: (*Breathing heavily.*) You aren't going to kill me, are you?

SALLY: Of course not. (*SHE backs off.*) Boy that was exciting.

TOM: Exciting? I felt like I was fighting for my life.

SALLY: Did I scare you?

TOM: I'm not scared, just concerned.

SALLY: Okay come on, let's look over there for the other half of the map.

TOM: Over there?

SALLY: Scared again?

TOM: I'm not scared, just . . . oh, who am I fooling? I'm terrified. (*HE starts to leave.*)

SALLY: Tom, where are you going?

TOM: I'm getting out of here. (*HE looks over the upstage side, screams.*) This ship is docked.

SALLY: What? How can that be? (*SHE rushes upstage.*)

TOM: And look. (*Points upstage.*) That's not our town.

SALLY: That looks like something out of the past. How could that be? We're in the past?

TOM: What? Don't talk like that, Sally. You're scaring me.

SALLY: I can hardly believe it myself. But look! When we boarded this ship it was far out in the bay and now it's docked. The town that we once knew is gone. I think we traveled over 300 hundred years in the past.

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(LADIES are heard off stage coming up to the ship.)

TOM: Do you hear that?

SALLY: Of course I do. Someone's coming up to the ship.

TOM: Let's get out of here.

SALLY: Where are we supposed to go?

(LADIES are heard again.)

TOM: Quick. They're coming on board. Hide!

(THEY hide. Moments later the LADY PIRATES enter. THEY are ALL dressed as men and have sacks of their belongings.)

ROSIE: Ye sure this be the ship?

BOBBY: This be the Black Madness, and 'tis what I heard the squeaky one say. They be needing a crew.

ALLIE: Bobby Anne, do ye really think this plan will work?

BOBBY: It has a chance, Allie.

ALLIE: But won't they know we be women?

BOBBY: They be men, and men only see what they want to see.

Besides, we've disguised ourselves as men and I must say we be looking good.

CALLIE: But, what if we get caught and they make us walk the plank or something?

BOBBY: Don't worry Callie, no one will be walking the plank.

CLAUDINE: I not be sure if I should be doing this.

ROSIE: Ye can always go back.

CLAUDINE: But I not be sure if I should go back.

ROSIE: What be ye sure of, Claudine?

CLAUDINE: That I'm not sure.

ROSIE: Ye said ye wanted a new life, right?

CLAUDINE: Aye, but . . .

ROSIE: Then don't complain. I told ye Bobby Anne can get us out of here, and she will. Have faith in her.

BOBBY: I will do what I can Rosie, but I make ye no promises.

(WINNIE starts crying.)

Winnie, why ye be crying?

WINNIE: *(Through her sobs.)* I miss my home.

BOBBY: But ye have no home.

WINNIE: *(SHE suddenly stops crying.)* Oh, yeah. *(SHE moves away.)*

LIZZY: Your plan to dress as men and join a crew on a pirate ship, be a good one. 'Tis the best way for us to leave this wretched place.

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POLLY: Aye! I don't think I could stand another day here. Cleaning up after those men. They be pigs, they are. *(SHE spits. SHE is as bad as the men SHE complains about.)* I gladly take the risk, even if it means becoming a pirate to do it.

CALLIE: But being a pirate is dangerous. We could all be killed.

POLLY: 'Tis the same as living here in Tortuga. I accept the risk. *(Sniff and wipes her nose on her sleeve.)*

BOBBY: Won't be easy. *(SHE walks bow legged.)* We must walk like a man, *(SHE lowers her voice to sound like a man)* and talk like a man.

POLLY: And belch like a man. *(SHE belches, the others laugh.)*

ALLIE: And scratch like a man. *(SHE scratches her backside.)*

LIZZY: And be dumb, just like a man.

(THEY all laugh.)

SASHA: I don't know if I can act like a man. I have a very strong feminine side. That's what men like about me.

POLLY: And the fact ye have no brains.

SASHA: Ye take that back or I'll . . .

BOBBY: Ladies, we can't be fighting among ourselves. We be going to have to work together if we be going to make this work.

ROSIE: Bobby Anne's right, save the insults for the men.

(There is a noise and ROSIE sees SALLY and TOM hiding.)

Who ye be? Come out of hiding.

(THEY come out of hiding.)

TOM: *(Frantically.)* Sorry we came aboard, uninvited. We'll leave. *(HE rushes to leave, but sees the town.)* But I don't want to go out there either.

ROSIE: Nobody wants to go into Tortuga.

TOM: Tortuga? A town filled with pirates and lawlessness? Maybe I'll stay.

BOBBY: Join us. We plan to leave Tortuga for a better life.

TOM: But this is a pirate ship.

BOBBY: Aye.

TOM: What a choice!

SALLY: We'd be happy to join you.

TOM: We would? But . . .

BOBBY: Then put on your disguises.

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(SALLY still has the pirate bandana. SHE puts it on.)

We don't want them to know that we be women. *(Looking at TOM.)*
Ye look almost like a man.

TOM: But I am a man.

ROSIE: If ye didn't have such a high voice, people might believe that ye were a man. Lower ye voice so you don't give us away.

(TOM is upset but moves away.)

CALLIE: Bobby Anne, someone's coming.

(ALL the LADIES move to upstage and look out. TOM pulls SALLY down stage.)

TOM: What's going on?

SALLY: I don't know, but I really think we are back in time.

TOM: Back in time? You mean these are real pirates?

SALLY: Looks like it. Aren't you excited?

TOM: *(Afraid.)* No!

(SALLY joins the other LADIES.)

(To himself.) Why couldn't I just have a friend who likes to play cards?

(The LADIES come back to center stage.)

BOBBY: 'Tis our first test ladies. I mean, *(lowers her voice)* 'tis our first test men. *(In normal voice.)* Now, spread out and look like ye been on a ship before.

(SALLY and TOM do as the other LADIES do. THEY move around trying to find a good place to stand like a man, clearing the center area so that the audience can see as SQUEAKER and HECTOR walk into view on the down stage side of the ship.)

SQUEAKER: I not be telling him.

HECTOR: I not be telling him.

SQUEAKER: I had to tell him last time.

HECTOR: No, I think I had to tell him last time.

SQUEAKER: No, I did.

HECTOR: Rock, paper, scissors?

SQUEAKER: I always lose.

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HECTOR: Aye, ye do. 'Tis why me like to do it.

SQUEAKER: *(Notices the "men" on the ship.)* Hector, thar be someone on board the Black Madness.

(THEY rush on board.)

HECTOR: What be yer reason to be on the Black Madness?

BOBBY: *(In a man's voice.)* We heared ye be looking for a crew.

HECTOR: Aye, 'tis true.

BOBBY: Well then, we be yer crew.

(The WOMEN scratch, belch, spit, etc., trying to convince the TWO PIRATES that THEY would be a tough crew of men.)

SQUEAKER: Not so fast, how do we know ye be a capable crew.

(ROSIE steps forward and grabs SQUEAKER.)

ROSIE: 'Tis not good to question me friend, Bucko. Ye might just found how capable we be at making someone walk the plank.

CALLIE: Or boiling them in oil.

LIZZY: Or maybe we'll just throw ye overboard.

SQUEAKER: *(Afraid. HE squeaks on the first few words of his line.)*
Looks like a very capable crew to me.

ROSIE: 'Tis good ye finally see what be true. *(SHE lets him go.)*

BOBBY: *(Looking around.)* Not much of a ship. How fast will she go?

SQUEAKER: Depends if we remember to raise the anchor or not.

HECTOR: *(HE hits SQUEAKER.)* She holds her own. *(Notices the medallion BOBBY is wearing.)* Hey, that be a might fine medallion ye have.

BOBBY: 'Tis a family treasure.

HECTOR: A treasure indeed. How many pieces of eight would ye take for it?

BOBBY: 'Tis not for sale.

HECTOR: Six pieces of eight?

BONNNIE: 'Tis not for sale at any price.

HECTOR: Come me heartie, all things have a price.

(HE reaches for it and BOBBY grabs his arm.)

BOBBY: The last man who reached for me medallion, I broke his arm.

(HECTOR quickly pulls his arm back and moves away.)

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Me medallion is not for sale.

HECTOR: As ye say.

BOBBY: So what be our destination?

SQUEAKER: The sea!

HECTOR: *(Gives SQUEAKER a dirty look.)* The Cap'n will tell us the destination in his own good time.

BOBBY: What be the pay?

SQUEAKER: A share in the treasure.

WOMEN: Treasure!?

(The WOMEN become very interested. HECTOR hits SQUEAKER again. HE reacts with a high squeak.)

HECTOR: Keep ye mouth closed or the Cap'n will have ye head. *(To BOBBY.)* Me mate has a big mouth.

SQUEAKER: But don't we always divide any treasure with all the crew?

HECTOR: Aye, of course we do, but they not be our crew just yet.

BOBBY: A treasure would interest us. What treasure it be?

HECTOR: *(Looking around.)* Well, don't tell the Cap'n I told ye, but he has the map to the Treasure of Cap'n Kidd.

BOBBY: The Treasure of Cap'n Kidd?

SALLY: *(To TOM.)* See, I told you it was real.

ROSIE: But that treasure is just a myth.

TOM: *(To SALLY.)* See, I told you it was a myth.

HECTOR: So many have said, but me Cap'n knows otherwise.

BOBBIE: But it has been said that the treasure be cursed and that the chest has no lock because the curse be so strong.

HECTOR: Aye, it be true, but we plan to break the curse.

POLLY: *(Laughs. In her normal voice.)* This I will have to see. A couple of men, breaking the curse of The Treasure of Cap'n Kidd?

(SQUEAKER and HECTOR look funny at her. SHE deepens her voice like a man.)

I mean, even being a man meself, I don't think I could break the curse.

SQUEAKER: Ye don't know me Cap'n. He's a bright one, he is.

BOBBY: That we will just have to see. When do we weigh anchor?

HECTOR: In an hour or two. But first I must know more about ye. On what ship did ye last serve?

BOBBY: Ship?

HECTOR: Aye, on what ship did ye sail? Ye have sailed before?

ROSIE: Of course, we have sailed.

BOBBY: Aye, of course. 'Twas on . . . on the Kayla May.

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HECTOR: The Kayla May? The ship with two Pirate Cap'ns at the helm, Cap'n Bree and Cap'n Jennings?

BOBBY: *(Uneasy, since THEY did not serve on any ship.)* That be the one.

HECTOR: I have heard many tales of the Kayla May and her two cap'ns. 'Twill be interesting to hear the stories ye tell.

BOBBY: Aye, 'twill be interesting.

HECTOR: Line up mates, so I can see what we have.

(The LADIES line up rather poorly with ALLIE and CALLIE at the end of the line. SALLY pulls TOM in line. HECTOR walks down the line looking at each LADY. When it comes to SASHA, SHE winks at him and flutters her eyes, flirting with him. The LADY next to her gives her an elbow and SHE stops. HECTOR reacts with disgust. HE moves on to WINNIE. SHE starts crying. HECTOR again reacts.)

HECTOR: Pirates don't cry.

WINNIE: They don't?

HECTOR: No.

WINNIE: Oh. *(SHE suddenly stops crying.)*

HECTOR: *(HE comes to TOM.)* This one looks like me sister.

TOM: *(Higher than normal voice.)* What?

HECTOR: But me sister's voice be deeper.

(HECTOR laughs and continues down the line and comes to POLLY. SHE spits right on HECTOR's shoe.)

POLLY: Sorry.

(HECTOR looks down at it and then wipes his shoe on the back of his pant leg. HE comes to ALLIE and CALLIE who are nudging each other trying to get a better position in line.)

ALLIE: Hey, quit pushing.

CALLIE: I ain't pushing, ye be pushing. *(SHE pushes ALLIE.)*

ALLIE: Am not.

CALLIE: Am too!

(THEY start pushing each other and ad lib fighting.)

BOBBY: They be twin sis . . . I mean twin brothers. We can hardly tell them apart.

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(THEY do not look like each other at all and HECTOR looks at SQUEAKER strangely.)

SQUEAKER: I thought they looked alike.

BOBBY: They always be fighting.

(Finally ALLIE pulls off CALLIE's bandana and her long hair falls out.)

SQUEAKER: Why, ye not be a man, but a woman.

HECTOR: A woman!?

WINNIE: Now they be going to boil us in oil.

BOBBY: They will not be going to boil us in oil.

WINNIE: Oh, good.

SQUEAKER: *(Looking closely at TOM.)* Why, they all be women.

(HECTOR grabs TOM. TOM lets out a high pitch scream,)

HECTOR: Ye all be women?

TOM: *(Scared.)* No, actually I'm a . . .

BOBBY: *(Interrupting.)* 'Tis true, we be women, but we be as tough as any man.

SQUEAKER: *(Laughing.)* A woman? As tough as a man?

(ROSIE grabs him and pulls him close to her. HE lets out a squeak.)

ROSIE: We be as good as any man.

(SHE pushes him back and HE falls. Standing over him.)

Maybe we be better.

CLAUDINE: I not be sure about that.

ROSIE: I'm sure!

HECTOR: The Cap'n will not allow women on his ship. 'Tis bad luck.

BOBBY: But it looks like ye have little choice. Ye have no other crew and, as ye say, the ship sails in an hour.

HECTOR: *(SQUEAKER moves to HECTOR's side.)* As it were, but I know me Cap'n and he will not have women on his ship.

BOBBY: Then don't tell him.

HECTOR: Don't tell him?

BOBBY: Don't tell him.

HECTOR: Ye have a point. If we don't have a crew for the Cap'n, we be given a flogging.

ROSIE: Then save yer hide and hold yer tongue.

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HECTOR: *(To SQUEAKER.)* What do ye think? Can these women fool the Cap'n?

SQUEAKER: I don't know. They be kind of lumpy.

HECTOR: Aye, they be, but it be a might better than no crew at all. I vote we don't tell the Cap'n and see whar the wind blows.

SQUEAKER: I agree.

HECTOR: *(To BOBBY and the other LADIES.)* We will give ye a chance, but ye must keep the Cap'n thinking ye be men or it might be the plank for all of ye.

SQUEAKER: And a flogging for us.

BOBBY: We will be more a man than most men. Right ladies? *(In a man's voice.)* I mean, right men?

(The LADIES give shout, Aye.)

TOM: I think I should tell you that . . .

(SALLY grabs him and pulls him back.)

SALLY: I don't think you should.

HECTOR: Squeaker, fetch the Cap'n.

SQUEAKER: But I had to do it last time.

HECTOR: No, I did.

SQUEAKER: No, I did.

HECTOR: Rock, paper, scissors?

SQUEAKER: Ugh! I always lose!

HECTOR: Aye, ye do. 'Tis why me like to do it. Maybe this be ye lucky day. The odds be in ye favor.

SQUEAKER: Oh, very well.

(THEY play rock, paper, scissors. THEY first both do rock then, paper, then scissors. Then SQUEAKER does rock and HECTOR does paper.)

HECTOR: Huzzah! I win again.

SQUEAKER: 'Tis a curse, it 'tis. I always lose. 'Tis like ye can read me mind.

HECTOR: I can't read what ye don't have, mate. Now, fetch the Cap'n

SQUEAKER: *(HE speaks to himself as HE exits.)* I don't know how he does it. He always wins. *(HE exits.)*

HECTOR: All right ladies, I mean men, look alive, suck in that gut.

(The LADIES do so. TOM fumbles to comply.)

Stick out that chest.

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(The LADIES do so.)

Oh. Maybe we should pull in that chest.

(The LADIES do so, trying not to look like women. FINCH enters.)

FINCH: If ye be telling me a tale. . . *(HE notices the "crew.")* Well Squeaker, ye not be telling me a tale. It seems I do have a crew.

HECTOR: *(Uneasy.)* Not just any crew, but a . . . a . . . a seasoned crew of real seadogs.

FINCH: Seadogs ye say? They look a might scrawny to me. *(To ROSIE.)* On what ship did ye sail?

ROSIE: The Kayla May, Cap'n.

FINCH: The Kayla May? I have heard of this mighty ship. Then these men must have seen many a battle.

(TOM whines. HE inspects the ladies.)

Who be the highest in command of these men?

ROSIE: That be Bobby Anne. *(SHE indicated BOBBY.)*

FINCH: Bobby Anne? 'Tis a funny name for a man.

BOBBY: *(Searching for a reason for her name.)* Me father wanted a girl.

FINCH: So, ye be the leader?

BOBBY: Aye, I guess they follow me.

FINCH: Well, now they follow me, for there be only one cap'n on the Black Madness.

SQUEAKER: And that be Cap'n John Finch.

FINCH: Ye mates willing to follow me, and only me?

(The LADIES look at each other, not sure what to say. BOBBY steps forward.)

BOBBY: If ye take us on as yer crew, me mates will all follow ye.

FINCH: *(HE pause in contemplation.)* Aye, for if they don't, they will find themselves at the bottom of Davy Jone's Locker. What say ye, me hearties?

LADIES: *(THEY shout.)* Aye.

TOM: Actually, I . . .

LIZZY: *(Interrupting TOM.)* 'Tis off to get the treasure.

(FINCH reacts.)

FINCH: The treasure? I said nothing of a treasure.

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LIZZY: But he (*indicating SQUEAKER*) said ye be going for the Treasure of Cap'n Kidd.

FINCH: What! It seems that me mate may need a flogging after all. (*HE steps towards SQUEAKER.*)

SQUEAKER: Me and me big mouth.

FINCH: (*As a suggestion to SQUEAKER.*) But, I might need ye later. All right men, (*shouting.*) weigh anchor, raise the sails.

(*The LADIES don't move as THEY don't know what to do.*)

On the double now, ye Scalleywags!

(*The LADIES start running around and do everything wrong. CALLIE and ALLIE bump into each other and start arguing. SALLY tries to help, while TOM is total confused. FINCH watches in amazement. Shouting.*)

Belay! Belay!

(*All the LADIES stop. FINCH walks over to BOBBY.*)

I was told ye served on a ship. Be it true?

(*ALL the LADIES look at each other, then lower their heads, not wanting to admit that THEY haven't.*)

So, ye not be seasoned seadogs. (*HE gives HECTOR an evil eye.*)

SQUEAKERS: Well, what do ye expect from a bunch of women? (*HE covers his mouth.*) Oops!

FINCH: Women?

HECTOR: Thar goes yer mouth again.

FINCH: (*To the LADIES.*) Ye all be women?

(*Slowly the LADIES take off their bandanas, hats, mustaches, etc to show that THEY are all women. SQUEAKER becomes very afraid as FINCH steps toward him.*)

Ye knew that they be women?

SQUEAKER: (*In a high pitch.*) Maybe.

FINCH: I can't believe it. I gave ye two a simple job to do and ye wind up bringing me wenches. I will deal with the likes of ye two later. (*To the LADIES.*) This ship has no use for women. Be on yer way. (*HE starts to walk away.*)

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BOBBY: But we be the only crew ye have. It looks to me that ye have little choice.

FINCH: But ye be mistaken, for I do have a choice and I choose not to sail with women as me crew.

(Suddenly CAPTAIN MINTEL and two of his crew members enter.)

MINTEL: Well, well, well. It looks like Finch is having himself a party. Too bad we not be invited. *(Looking at the WOMEN.)* But then, these be some of the ugliest women I have ever seen.

SQUEAKER: They be our crew.

FINCH: Hold ye tongue.

MINTEL: Yer crew? *(HE laughs.)* The Black Madness manned by a bunch of wenches. *(To FINCH.)* I have heard that ye have had a few misfortunes, but I didn't know 'twas this bad. *(Notices the medallion.)* Ah, but it seems that someone has some fortunes. A pirate's eye always spots the glitter of gold. 'Twould look handsome around me neck.

BOBBY: Over me dead body.

MINTEL: Ah, a feisty one.

FINCH: *(Interrupting.)* Cap'n Mintel? Surely ye didn't come to inspect me crew?

MINTEL: No.

FINCH: Then just what be the reason ye be here?

MINTEL: It seems that ye have been one step ahead of me.

Everywhar I be, ye been before.

FINCH: As it always has.

MINTEL: Let's cut to the chase. Hand over the map, and me mates and I will leave peaceably.

FINCH: Map? And what map might that be?

SQUEAKER: I think he be talking about the map to the Treasure of Cap'n Kidd.

(HECTOR hits him and HE suddenly realizes what HE has said. In a high pitch.)

Oh, sorry.

FINCH: *(To SQUEAKER.)* I'll have ye head! *(To MINTEL.)* Surely ye know that the Treasure of Cap'n Kidd be protected by a curse.

MINTEL: I take it ye know the same.

FINCH: So what ye be wanting with a map to a treasure that be cursed?

MINTEL: 'Twould be nice on the wall of me cap'n's quarters.

FINCH: Aye, 'twould do the same for me quarters.

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MINTEL: Come, come Cap'n. I have the crew to take me to the treasure and if ye cooperate with me, maybe I will grant ye a small share of the treasure.

FINCH: A small share? How kind of ye. But I think I will find the treasure meself and not share, even a small portion with the likes of ye.

MINTEL: I was hoping that it wouldn't come to this. But enough talk, hand over the map.

FINCH: I be given ye nothing but the point end of me sword.

(FINCH, MINTEL, and his MEN draw their swords. SQUEAKER and HECTOR draw their swords and then hide behind the LADIES.)

MINTEL: Come now, surely ye see that the odds be a bit uneven.

FINCH: *(Gesturing toward MINTEL and his MEN.)* Three against, *(HE looks around for HECTOR and SQUEAKER but doesn't see them)* one.

(The LADIES start looking at BOBBY who is nodding to the LADIES, planning their attack.)

MINTEL: Will ye be handing over the map or, as ye say, feel the point of me sword?

(There is a moment of uneasiness as MINTEL and FINCH stare at each other. FINCH knows HE does not have a chance. MINTEL and his MEN step close to FINCH and put their swords to FINCH's chest.)

Drop ye sword.

(HECTOR and SQUEAKER drop their swords and raise their hands. FINCH drops his sword.)

BOBBY: Now, ladies!

(The LADIES jump into action, attacking MINTEL's MEN. Some jump on their backs, some are biting their arms and / or legs, generally fighting like sissies. TOM screams and hides. SALLY joins in on the fight. The MEN are overwhelmed. BOBBY picks up FINCH's sword and stands before MINTEL.)

MINTEL: Well, what do we have here? A heroine? I guess I will have to show this wench her place.

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(BOBBY begins to sword fight with MINTEL. BOBBY continues to fight with MINTEL until SHE gains the upper hand and has her sword to his chest.)

MINTEL: I was not ready for a swordswoman. Ye fight well.

BOBBY: Me father wanted a boy.

MINTEL: But now, what be ye plans? To kill me?

BOBBY: *(SHE backs off.)* Be gone with ye.

MINTEL: It seems the Cap'n of the Black Madness has wenches do his fighting. Makes no matter, I always get what I want. Watch ye back Cap'n Finch, ye and yer lady friends will see me again.

(HE and his MEN exit.)

FINCH: *(Amazed.)* Shiver me timbers! Ye fight better than most men.

BOBBY: Well, Cap'n Finch, what choice do ye make now. Do we be ye crew? *(SHE hands him his sword.)*

FINCH: I hate when a women be right.

BOBBY: I hate when a man doesn't realize that a women *can* be right.

FINCH: Hector, Squeaker, take these ladies and their belongings below. Then return and prepare to sail.

(The LADIES cheer.)

But ye *(indicating BOBBY)* stay.

SQUEAKER: If ye ladies will follow me.

(HE and HECTOR exit with the LADIES grabbing their stuff and following.)

TOM: *(To SALLY.)* Sally, where are you going?

SALLY: With them.

TOM: But we don't belong with them.

SALLY: Haven't you ever heard of "When in Rome?"

TOM: I've never been to Rome.

SALLY: Come on.

(TOM whines as SALLY pulls him out.)

FINCH: Do ye think ye lady friends be up to the task? Cap'n Mintel will be close behind and it may get a bit dangerous.

BOBBY: They be willing to do what they must for a new way of life.

FINCH: Ah, but a pirate life not be as glorious as it seems. At sea, ye be hunted by the Spanish and the British. Ye must constantly be

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one step ahead or ye face a hanging at Execution Dock. Then there be the others, like Cap'n Mintel, who do not follow the rules of pirating. They target all ships, even other pirate ships. Their greed be great and they not care how they get it.

BOBBY: It may not be the life me friends be looking for, but 'tis a chance to get away from this wretched place. Here women be treated like slaves.

FINCH: The sea has no mercy, especially for those who not know it's ways.

BOBBY: Teach me and me mates what we need to know.

FINCH: There be a lot to learn.

BOBBY: Then let us not waste a moment.

FINCH: As it were. I'll show ye whar to put yer belongings.

(THEY exit. Moments later TOM rushes on stage followed by SALLY.)

TOM: We can't stay here.

SALLY: But it's exciting.

TOM: *(Scared.)* Exciting?

SALLY: Did you see that medallion that Bobby had?

TOM: Yes.

SALLY: Don't you remember that I told you about the one my great-great-great grandmother had. It's the same. Do you know what this means?

TOM: Don't tell me that you think that Bobby is your great-great-great grandmother.

SALLY: Yes, I do.

TOM: Sally, come on. That is near impossible. What am I saying? It is impossible.

SALLY: So is time travel, but here we are. *(SHE takes out her half of a map.)* Do you think that the map Captain Finch has is the same as the one I have.

TOM: You have half a map. Finch has the whole map. It can't be the same.

SALLY: But my map is from the future. Maybe Finch's map is ripped in half.

TOM: Why do you always think that everything happens just for you?

SALLY: You are probably right. But that means that there are two treasures. We have to find the other half of the map.

TOM: Sally, I think we need to find a way to get back to our time, not to look for a map that may not even be a treasure map.

SALLY: Tom whether you like it or not, we are on a pirate ship that sailed over three hundred years ago. Deal with it. *(SHE exits.)*

TOM: I would rather be dealing cards at the kitchen table. *(HE exits.)*

CURTAIN

Do Not Copy

ACT II – SCENE 1

(With the curtains closed we hear a ship at sea, crashing through the waves. The sound effect increases.)

FINCH: *(With curtain closed. Shouting.)* Avast me hearties, all hands on deck. Weigh anchor. Man yer halyards, yer head braces, and haul the bunt. On the double ye scurvy dogs and ladies.

(Pause, as sound effect begins to fade.)

Keep her to the wind, Hector. Keep her to the wind.

(On stage the sails are raised, if possible. The sound effect fades as the curtain opens. The Black Madness is now at sea. SQUEAKER is standing watch. SQUEAKER is marching back and forth with his sword over his shoulder. HE is on guard. HE ad-libs for laughs pretending to sword fight with an imaginary enemy. HE then puts the point of his sword to the floor but gets his foot instead. FINCH enters.)

FINCH: All's well on deck?

SQUEAKER: *(In a high, painful voice.)* Aye.

FINCH: Now that we be at sea, 'tis time to teach the ladies to be pirates. Ye never know when we will meet Cap'n Mintel again, and we must be ready.

SQUEAKER: From our last meeting, I think 'tis Cap'n Mintel and his men be the ones who need to be ready.

FINCH: Cap'n Mintel will not be caught off guard again. He be a clever one. Squeaker, bring the crew on deck, 'tis time we make pirates out of them.

SQUEAKER: Aye, aye, Cap'n.

(HE limps off. HECTOR enters.)

HECTOR: No sign of Cap'n Mintel on the horizon.

FINCH: He's out there, I feel it in me bones. Cap'n Mintel doesn't give up that easy.

HECTOR: How long until we reach the island?

FINCH: Three or four days, if the winds be right.

HECTOR: Ye think that be enough time to make ready the crew for a fight with Cap'n Mintel, if he shows up?

FINCH: It must be enough time. We have little choice. And Cap'n Mintel will show up, I bet me share of the treasure on that. But he not be the only one we must fear.

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HECTOR: Thar be another?

FINCH: Aye, we must keep a watchful eye on Bobby Anne. She could lead a mutiny once we come to the treasure.

HECTOR: The Cap'n be right, she has the others at her side. She be the one to watch.

(SQUEAKER and the LADIES, SALLY and TOM enter.)

Line up ladies. 'Tis time to make pirates out of ye.

(The LADIES line up and SQUEAKER and HECTOR are out in front, each with a sword. The LADIES have also brought on swords. TOM musters up the courage to face FINCH.)

TOM: Excuse me Captain Finch. But I think I should tell you . . .

(FINCH looks down on him. TOM becomes afraid.)

FINCH: *(To TOM.)* Get in line.

(TOM smiles with fear.)

TOM: Good advice. *(HE gets in line near SALLY.)*

FINCH: As a pirate ye have to learn to defend yeself. The preferred weapon be the cutlass. *(HE draws his sword.)* The goal be to make the enemy feel the point of ye sword before ye feel the point of his.

POLLY: Sounds easy enough. *(SHE spits.)*

FINCH: 'Tis not an easy task. Squeaker and Hector will demonstrate.

(SQUEAKER and HECTOR come forward with their swords.

SQUEAKER is acting very cocky.)

Always keep yer eyes on yer opponent's eyes, as their eyes will tell ye much.

(SQUEAKER winks at the LADIES.)

Keep yer sword up and at the ready. Squeaker and Hector, take yer places.

(SQUEAKER and HECTOR take their positions. Again SQUEAKER is acting like HE knows everything, showing off, as HE turns HECTOR suddenly hits SQUEAKER on the backside with his sword.)

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SQUEAKER: Hey, I not be ready.

HECTOR: Ye can be sure, Cap'n Mintel's men won't ask if ye be ready.

(THEY begin again. SQUEAKER quickly becomes scared and hides his head with his arms and his sword is up. HE can also let out a few "squeaks," living up to his nickname. HECTOR pauses and SQUEAKER still acts as though HE is being hit by HECTOR. The LADIES begin to laugh.)

FINCH: Maybe I be the one to demonstrate with ye Bobby Ann.

BOBBY: 'Twould be my pleasure.

(BOBBY and FINCH begin fighting center stage and BOTH are fighting hard and well. The sword fighting between BOBBY and FINCH can be as intricate or as simple as desired, but it should show that THEY are evenly matched. Following a short sword fight. THEY pause.)

FINCH: Ye fight well.

BOBBY: As I said, me father wanted a boy, he taught me all he knew.

FINCH: He must be a great man?

BOBBY: Was, he died when I was young and I was left to fend for meself.

(THEY fight again, then pause.)

FINCH: Ye must have been the terror of the town.

BOBBY: The men left me alone, if that be what ye mean.

(Again THEY fight and then pause.)

FINCH: I can see now why no man has tamed ye.

BOBBY: I will not be tamed by any man.

FINCH: Maybe ye have not yet met the right man.

BOBBY: There be no such man, to be sure.

(THEY fight again. FINCH suddenly gets the upper hand and disarms BOBBY. There is a pause.)

FINCH: Maybe there be a man who can tame ye.

(HE backs off. SHE is upset.)

Enough with the swords, let's see how ye be loading cannons.

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(SQUEAKER and HECTOR each push on a cannon to down stage. BOBBY moves back to the other LADIES, who console her.)

Maybe a little competition will make things more interesting. An extra ration to the team who fires off their cannon first, the losers serve the winners. Pick two of yers to go against me two.

BOBBY: *(Looks over her LADIES.)* Rosie, Polly, front and center. Ye think ye have a chance?

POLLY: A piece of cake. *(SHE spits.)*

SQUEAKER: A piece of cake, indeed. I hope ye have some cake to serve me as me dessert.

FINCH: Then 'tis a bet?

BOBBY: 'Tis a bet.

FINCH: May the best man win. Ye load a cannon like so, first ye take the sponge

(HECTOR holds up the sponge)

and soak it in water and than insert all the way to the back of the barrel and then turn it three times to the left and three times to the right.

(HECTOR pretends to put the sponge in the bucket and along the outside of the cannon. As HE does, HE unknowingly hits SQUEAKER with it.)

The purpose be, to quench any sparks that may linger. Putting in powder on a live spark can quickly send ye down to Davy Jones locker. Next ye

(HECTOR holds up the cartridge)

insert the cartridge followed by the cannon ball. The rammer be the next step to pack the cartridge and cannon ball in tight.

(HECTOR holds up the rammer and pretends to put it in the cannon barrel. SQUEAKER is standing right behind the cannon. As HECTOR pretends to ram the cannon ball in tight, along the outside of the cannon, he goes too far and hits SQUEAKER in the crotch.)

Next aim yer cannon at the enemy, insert the pick in the vent hole to clear it and to rip open the cartridge bag, and then a bit of fine powder be put in the hole. Then, all that needs done is a flame put to the powder.

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(SQUEAKER clears the vent hole with the pick, then HECTOR pretends to light it with a torch.)

SQUEAKER: Boom!

(FINCH gives him a dirty look.)

Big boom?

FINCH: Ready men?

SQUEAKER and HECTOR: Aye.

BOBBY: Ready ladies?

POLLY and ROSIE: Aye.

FINCH: At the ready. Go!

(SQUEAKER and HECTOR frantically start to load the cannon. THEY fight over the sponge, put it down and start to do rock paper scissors. FINCH sees this.)

Get to work!

(SQUEAKER and HECTOR start to load the cannon again, but are falling all over each other. ROSIE and POLLY slowly load the cannon with the cannon ball far ahead of SQUEAKER and HECTOR. THEY are about to fire it off into the audience when FINCH stops them. Shouting.)

Belay!

(EVERYONE stops.)

We not be wasting the powder and ball, we may need it against Cap'n Mintel. *(HE walks over the SQUEAKER and HECTOR.)* Go below and prepare to serve the ladies.

(The LADIES cheer and SQUEAKER and HECTOR, defeated, move the cannons back and then exit.)

(To BOBBY) I'll see ye at supper. (HE exits.)

(The other LADIES congratulate ROSIE and POLLY.)

BOBBY: 'Twas a good job ye two did. But I wonder if it may have been too good?

ROSIE: What brings ye to say that we be too good?

BOBBY: We must not make the men feel that we be a threat.

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POLLY: But we be. We can do everything they can do.

ROSIE: And better.

ALLIE: Aye! What do we need the men for anyway?

CALLIE: Let's take over the ship.

BOBBY: 'Tis mutiny ye speak. We would be fools to think we could sail this ship without the men. They know the ways of the sea and we do not. We need them as much as they need us. 'Twould be good for us to remember that. A man would make the mistake that ye be contemplating. I say we must keep our place and not upset the men.

ROSIE: Bobby Anne is right. We know very little about sailing a ship and we must not forget that we will see Cap'n Mintel again. The men could be an important asset to us.

SASHA: And besides, I think Squeaker be cute.

LIZZY: Cute!? The sea air has blinded ye. Now, Hector, he be the cute one.

POLLY: I think both of ye have been blinded.

ROSIE: Aye, by love.

LIZZY: (*Angry.*) I said he be cute, I didn't say more.

ROSIE: Ye can see it in yer eyes, when he nears ye.

LIZZY: That ain't so!

(THEY start to fight.)

BOBBY: Ladies, ladies, we will have plenty of fighting to do when Cap'n Mintel shows up. Let's not fight amongst ourselves. Why don't ye ladies go below and see what the men be serving up.

LIZZY: Aye, I be a bit hungry.

POLLY: Aye, for a man!

LIZZY: Ye take that back.

(POLLY and LIZZY start fighting.)

BOBBY: Ladies!

POLLY: Sorry, Bobby Anne. Come on ladies, our supper awaits.

(THEY exit. ROSIE stays behind as the OTHERS exit.)

ROSIE: Ye think we can trust Cap'n Finch?

BOBBY: He seems like a trustworthy man.

ROSIE: Pirate and trust be hard to say in the same breath.

BOBBY: Maybe so, but we have little choice and Cap'n Finch has not given us reason to think otherwise. We must not test his authority on this ship. 'Twould not be wise.

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ROSIE: Aye, I see yer point. I will see that the other ladies don't tilt the ship.

BOBBY: Good. And now to our supper.

(THEY exit. SALLY pulls TOM on stage.)

SALLY: Tom, what are you doing?

TOM: It's dinnertime.

SALLY: We have to find that map.

TOM: Map, map, map. There is more to life than a map.

SALLY: Like what?

TOM: Food.

SALLY: Do you really want to eat food that was made on this ship?
With rats running around?

TOM: Rats!

SALLY: And where no one washes their hands.

TOM: You really know how to kill a guy's appetite.

SALLY: We have to keep looking for the map.

TOM: What if Captain Finch finds us snooping around.

SALLY: Then we will probably be thrown overboard.

TOM: What?

SALLY: Or have us flogged.

TOM: Flogged!

SALLY: Or boiled in oil.

TOM: Sally!

SALLY: All right. Let's just look for the map.

TOM: Why not. You've killed my appetite.

(THEY exit. Moments later ALL the LADIES come laughing on stage, except for BOBBY.)

LIZZY: Did ye see his face?

CALLIE: Ye would have thought that I poked him with a knife rather than pinched his behind.

CLAUDINE: I not be sure ye should have done that.

CALLIE: And why not?

CLAUDINE: Because ye could have made his heart stop.

(THEY ALL laugh.)

WINNY: I felt kind of sorry for Squeaker.

LIZZY: No need. I think he really enjoyed it.

(Again the LADIES laugh.)

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ROSIE: Just remember ladies how ye felt the first time when a man put his hand on ye.

POLLY: I remember the first time. I spit right in his eye. He kept his hands off me after that, to be sure. (*SHE spits.*)

ALLIE: Probably wanted to know if ye had any feelings or not.

POLLY: (*Getting angry.*) What ye mean by that?

ROSIE: Ladies, let's not start fighting.

(*POLLY backs down, but stays angry.*)

SASHA: I remember the first time a man pinched me.

ROSIE: And how did it make ye feel?

SASHA: Kind of tingly all over.

(*The OTHER LADIES show their disgust.*)

ALLIE: Ye be hopeless.

SASHA: I know, hopelessly romantic.

(*Again the LADIES show disgust.*)

CALLIE: I be about to lose me dinner.

ROSIE: Remember too ladies, we must treat the men with respect as Bobby said.

LIZZY: Aye. 'Twill be hard, but I will try and keep me hands off Squeaker.

(*THEY laugh again.*)

WINNY: Rosie, do ye think the treasure of Cap'n Kidd be real?

ROSIE: I don't know. I have heard rumors for years that he buried some treasure. And I know many a man who dug until their fingers bled looking for it. But real or not, at least we be away from the wretched life in Tortuga.

ALLIE: Rosie, what ye going to do with yer share of the treasure? If we find it.

ROSIE: I don't know, but I think I will return to London and hob knob with the royals. (*SHE sticks her nose in the air and walks around like a Queen.*)

SASHA: I be buying me a fancy dress and a man to go with it.

POLLY: Ye can't buy a man.

SASHA: Everything has a price.

POLLY: Any man ye have to buy ain't worth having.

CLAUDINE: I not be sure what I will do with me share.

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POLLY: Of course not. I think I will open me a pub right in New York City.

LIZZY: I think I will return home to me family in Boston. I hopped a ship looking for an adventure and found meself in Tortuga. What a mistake that was.

ROSIE: That sounds like a grand way to use yer share.

LIZZY: What about ye, Callie and Allie, what do ye plan to do with yer share.

(CALLIE and ALLIE look at each other, unable to decide.)

CALLIE: How about some boxing gloves?

(The LADIES laugh.)

ROSIE: Aye, they would be well used.

(SQUEAKER enters. HE is looking at his hands.)

SQUEAKER: 'Tis awful. Dish pan hands, I have. I had to do the dishes all meself.

LIZZY: Whar be Hector?

SQUEAKER: We played rock, paper, scissors and I lost again.

POLLY: Ye have to be smarter than the rock to win that game.

SQUEAKER: Well, that explains it. *(Looking at his hand again.)* 'Tis unfair to make a man do woman's work.

(The LADIES react.)

POLLY: And just what be woman's work?

(The LADIES advance toward SQUEAKER. HE is scared.)

SQUEAKER: *(With some fear. Backing up. CALLIE is behind him.)* Cooking and cleaning *(his voice gets smaller)* and things like that. *(HE notices CALLIE and covers his behind and moves away from her.)*

POLLY: And what be man's work?

SQUEAKER: I don't think I should say any more.

(BOBBY enters.)

BOBBY: Ladies! Remember what I said. Squeaker, maybe ye should go below.

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SQUEAKER: I think that be a fine idea. *(HE scurries off.)*

ROSIE: Sorry, Bobby. The ladies and I got carried away. 'Twon't happen again.

BOBBY: Time to go below and get some shut eye.

(THEY exit rather quietly and FINCH enters. The lights dim a little.)

BOBBY: Cap'n Finch. That was a might good meal, and served by a handsome man to boot.

FINCH: Handsome man? It has been a long time since anyone called me handsome. The words handsome and pirate be usually not spoken in the same breath.

BOBBY: I have met many a pirate, most be disgusting, dishonest men who would sell their own mothers for a pint of ale.

FINCH: There be those pirates whom, as ye say, be rough around the edges. But most would be considered honest among other pirates.

BOBBY: Honor among thieves?

FINCH: Aye, I know it be hard to believe, but most pirates follow a code of honor.

BOBBY: 'Tis hard to believe indeed. But somehow, ye be different than most pirates.

FINCH: Maybe so. Before I was branded a pirate, I was considered an honorable man by most. Now, I am a pirate and among most other pirates, I am considered honest.

BOBBY: How be it that ye were branded a pirate?

FINCH: When the British whar at war with the French and the Spanish, I was a privateer and had the right to attack any of their ships, to take all that they had and even sell their ship. After all, it was war. Then the Treaty of Ratisbone was signed, ending the rights for privateers to attack other ships. But I was never told of the treaty, and before I knew it, I was branded a pirate by the British and a price was put upon me head. So, I didn't ask to be a pirate, but that is what they say I am, so that is what I be. 'Tis a hard life, but the sea is the only life I know. I can only hope that the sea takes me before the British.

BOBBY: There be many places that a man like ye can go to settle down, without the threat of the British.

FINCH: Aye, but the time and the reason has not yet come to me, and The Black Madness, well . . . she be like me family. I can't leave her. And what about ye, Bobby Anne, what be yer story?

BOBBY: I was only seven when me mother died. Me father brought me to Tortuga whar he was a blacksmith who made some of the finest swords in all the Caribbean.

FINCH: Ah, that be why ye be good with a sword.

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BOBBY: Aye, me father taught me all he knew and all he knew was swords. He was killed over a dispute over the price of a sword when I was 15, so I was left on the streets to fend for meself. Before he died he gave me this. (*SHE shows the medallion.*) 'Twas me mother's and her mother's before her. 'Tis been handed down from mother to daughter for generations.

FINCH: 'Tis a wonder that it hasn't been taken.

BOBBY: Many a man has tried, but all have failed. I would fight to me death to protect it. 'Tis all I have.

FINCH: Then, I will not be one who tries.

BOBBY: That would be wise.

FINCH: But I be the Cap'n and I worry a bit about yer lady friends.

BOBBY: Ye worry about a mutiny?

FINCH: (*Surprised with her boldness.*) Aye. For ye out number the rest if me crew and as we have seen, me crew not be the best.

BOBBY: We ladies ask only to be treated with respect and have equal share in the treasure, should we find it. We need to know that ye can be trusted. As ye said, we need to know that there be honor among thieves.

FINCH: I have given ye me word.

BOBBY: But words be only words.

FINCH: Aye. (*HE thinks on this for a moment and then takes the map out of his pocket.*)

BOBBY: What that be?

FINCH: 'Tis the map to the Treasure of Cap'n Kidd. (*HE tears it in half and hands half of it to BOBBY.*) There, ye have half the map and I the other. Without each half the treasure cannot be found. Ye have me word that ye and yer lady friends will get their share of the treasure, can I have ye word that ye and yer ladies friends will follow me? Do we have an accord?

BOBBY: Aye, we do. Ye have me word. Me and me ladies friends will follow ye. (*SHE folds up the map and puts it in her pocket.*) How do ye know that the treasure is not a myth?

FINCH: I had a friend who sailed with Cap'n Kidd just before he was captured by the British. He was one of his crew members when Kidd took the Quedah Merchant. A ship with great wealth. Before Cap'n Kidd was captured he buried his treasure.

BOBBY: Aye, but that treasure was dug up by the British on Gardiner Island years ago.

FINCH: 'Tis true, but that was only a small part of the treasure. Before he sailed out of the Caribbean waters and to Gardiner Island, he stopped at Mona Island. Mona Island was not owned by the British, Spanish or the French and it was uninhabited so it was a good place to hide. There he buried the lion's share of his loot, knowing

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that he could use it to bribe his way out of trouble. Before he left Mona Island he placed a curse on the treasure. But his plan didn't work and he was taken back to England and hung.

BOBBY: And ye believe this friend of yers?

FINCH: Aye, his mind was clear and he wanted to rid himself of the map before he died.

BOBBY: Did he tell ye how to break the curse?

FINCH: No, he died before he could tell me.

BOBBY: Then how do ye plan to break the curse and come out of it alive?

FINCH: I have set me mind to it many times. But I not be sure that I should be telling ye me thoughts yet.

BOBBY: Come Cap'n Finch, there must be trust if we are to succeed. Maybe I can help ye.

FINCH: As ye say. The curse says that any mortal man who removes the treasure from its island resting place and opens the chest will rest no more and die a painful death over, and over again for all eternity. It is a thought that does not sit well with me and me men. But as with all curses, there is a way that it can be broken.

BOBBY: What be ye thoughts to break the curse?

FINCH: Once we find the chest, we could remove the treasure one piece at a time, for one coin or jewel does not make a treasure.

BOBBY: Possibly, but even one coin or jewel can be called a treasure, as me medallion is me family treasure.

FINCH: Aye, this may be true. It seems that it will need more thought.

BOBBY: One must be careful, for once the curse be upon ye, there may be no way to stop it. I will think on it meself.

(SQUEAKER enters.)

SQUEAKER: (*Speaking to himself.*) I don't understand it. He always wins.

FINCH: Squeaker.

SQUEAKER: It's like he can read me mind.

FINCH: I take it ye be on night watch?

SQUEAKER: Aye, I lost to Hector again.

FINCH: Hector has ye fooled, mate. The game is called rock paper scissors, but ye don't have to do it in that order. Next time mix things up a bit, do rock, *scissors*, paper.

SQUEAKER: Rock, *scissors*, paper?

FINCH: Aye, 'twill surprise Hector, to be sure.

SQUEAKER: Thanks, Cap'n.

FINCH: 'Tis time to catch some shut eye. We be going below now. Keep a close eye on the horizon, Squeaker. I know that Cap'n

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Mintel will be showing his face soon. Ring the ship's bell if ye see anything.

SQUEAKER: Aye, aye, Cap'n.

FINCH: A sharp eye, mate, a sharp eye.

SQUEAKER: Ye can count on me, Cap'n.

(FINCH chuckles. BOBBY and FINCH exit. SQUEAKER takes his guard position and marches back and forth with his sword over his shoulder. The lights slowly dim. Moments later WINNY enters, SHE is crying.)

Winny, why ye be crying?

WINNY: *(SHE stops crying, thinks.)* I don't know. *(SHE turns and exits.)*

SQUEAKER: *(HE shakes his head.)* Women.

(HE continues to march back and forth. Moments later CLAUDINE enters.)

Claudine?

CLAUDINE: I'm not sure if I should sleep in the hammock or on the floor.

SQUEAKER: Well . . .

CLAUDINE: If I sleep in the hammock, I could get seasick from the swinging. But if I sleep on the floor, I could be bitten by a rat.

SQUEAKER: Well . . .

CLAUDINE: But then again, I'm not sure if I should even go to sleep, but I'm not sure how good I would be come tomorrow morning.

SQUEAKER: Well . . .

CLAUDINE: I'm just not sure what I should do. *(SHE exits.)*

SQUEAKER: I be glad I be a man.

(HE returns to marching back and forth. Slowly we see a head pop up from behind the railing upstage. Then another and another. It is MINTEL and his MEN. MINTEL quietly climbs over the railing, hides and then HE throws a small rock to down stage right. SQUEAKER is startled and looks down right. HE sneaks off right, looking for what made the sound. MINTEL waves a few of his MEN on board. THEY climb over and hide on deck. SQUEAKER doesn't find anything so HE comes back to center stage and starts marching back and forth again. MINTEL comes out of hiding and throws a rock to down left. SQUEAKER is startled and creeps off left as the rest of MINTEL's MEN climb over and hide. SQUEAKER can't find anything and returns to center stage, marches back and forth, yawns, finds an out of the way

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place to sit down and quickly falls asleep. Slowly MINTEL and his MEN come out and gather.)

BEN: *(In a loud whisper.)* What we be doing now Cap'n Mintel?

MINTEL: We be hiding until morning. Thar's no sense for us to go searching for the treasure map in the dark. We will wait until the sun comes up and the opportune time to strike and then the treasure map be ours. I will also teach that wench a lesson and her medallion will be mine.

(THEY ALL quietly agree.)

BEN: What about the women?

JACK: Can we take them back to our ship?

MINTEL: Nay on that idea. A woman on a ship 'tis bad luck. Just look at whar it got Cap'n Finch.

(The MEN laugh.)

Shhhh. We don't want to wake up the ladies. Now find a nice quiet place to hide till morning and wait for me signal.

SASHA: *(From off stage. Calling out.)* Squeaker!

JACK: Someone's coming.

MINTEL: Quick! Hide.

(THEY ALL hide. SASHA and CALLIE enter from stage right.)

SASHA: *(Calling in a loud whisper.)* Squeaker! Squeaker! Allie can ye see Squeaker?

CALLIE: I be Callie, not Allie.

SASHA: I can never tell ye apart.

CALLIE: Aye, 'tis been a curse since we were born.

SASHA: I want to find Squeaker.

CALLIE: How do ye even know that Squeaker be on deck?

SASHA: Cause Hector and Squeaker played rock paper scissors to see who would stand night watch.

CALLIE: And, of course, Squeaker lost.

SASHA: As usual. *(Seeing BEN in the shadows.)* Be that him?

CALLIE: I don't know, 'tis so dark out here.

SASHA: *(SHE creeps over to BEN.)* There ye be.

(BEN jumps up and runs off stage left.)

Squeaker!

CALLIE: I think he be playing hard to get.

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SASHA: Or maybe a little hide and seek. *(Calling to off stage, in a loud whisper.)* Ready or not here I come.

(SHE tiptoes off stage left. CALLIE moves near JACK. HE suddenly jumps up and runs across the stage and exits right.)

CALLIE: *(Calling off stage left in the direction that SASHA went.)*
Sasha, Sasha. Squeaker went that way. I guess I'll have to get him meself.

(SHE rushes off right after JACK. ALLIE enters from right. Moments later BEN enters from left and rushes across the stage and exits right. When ALLIE sees him, SHE screams.)

ALLIE: Boy, the rats on this ship be big.

(SASHA rushes on from left.)

SASHA: Callie, did ye see him?

ALLIE: I not be Callie, I be Allie.

SASHA: But ye said ye be Callie.

ALLIE: I think I know who I be, and I be Allie.

SASHA: Did ye see Squeaker?

ALLIE: I saw someone scurry like a rat that way. *(Points right.)*

SASHA: That 'twould be him. *(Calling off stage)* Squeaker, now ye be making me mad. Ye come here right now.

(SHE rushes off right. JACK rushes on from right, crosses the stage in front of ALLIE and exits left.)

ALLIE: I guess it takes a cat to catch a rat.

(SHE rushes off left after JACK. Moments later BEN rushes on from right, crosses the stage and exits left. CALLIE rushes on from right and pauses. SASHA then rushes on from Right.)

SASHA: Allie, did ye see him?

CALLIE: I be Callie.

SASHA: But ye just told me ye be Allie.

CALLIE: The night air has gotten to ye, I told ye, I be Callie.

SASHA: This chasin' Squeaker has made me crazy.

CALLIE: Why don't ye wait here and I will chase Squeaker out here and ye catch him.

SASHA: 'Tis a good idea.

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(CALLIE rushes off left. Moments later ALLIE rushes on left.)

Callie, did ye see him?

ALLIE: Ye be crazy, I be Allie.

SASHA: But ye said ye be Callie.

ALLIE: No, I be Allie.

SASHA: Oh, me head hurts.

(CALLIE rushes on left.)

CALLIE: Did ye catch him?

SASHA: I only be catching a headache.

ALLIE: Callie? What ye be doing here?

CALLIE: I be helping Sasha chase Squeaker.

ALLIE: Ye be chasing Squeaker? But I be chasing Squeaker.

CALLIE: Couldn't be, cause I be chasin' him. Ye be crazy.

(SQUEAKER starts to wake up, stretches, and sees CALLIE and ALLIE arguing.)

ALLIE: Just who ye be calling crazy?

CALLIE: I be calling ye crazy.

ALLIE: Then, I be calling ye crazy.

CALLIE: Ye take that back or I be throwing ye overboard.

SASHA: I know I be crazy.

SQUEAKER: *(HE wakes from the noise and crossing over to the LADIES.)* Ladies, what be the matter?

SASHA: Ye be the matter. *(SHE slaps him.)*

SQUEAKER: What 'twas that for?

SASHA: For not coming when I call ye.

(CALLIE steps up and slaps SQUEAKER.)

SQUEAKER: And what that be for?

CALLIE: That be for making me chase ye around the ship.

SQUEAKER: What?

(ALLIE steps up and slaps SQUEAKER.)

And what that be for?

ALLIE: I don't know, but I know ye need it.

CALLIE: Men! Who needs them anyway? Come on ladies let's be going below.

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(THEY exit. SQUEAKER rubs his cheek.)

SQUEAKER: Women! I be never figuring them out. *(Goes back to his sleeping place.)* A man can't even take a little nap without being accosted right here on his own ship. I go back to dreaming of women, 'tis safer.

(HE quickly falls asleep. The lights slowly come up for daybreak. HE slowly wakes, rubs his eyes and looks out over the audience. HE is surprised at what HE sees. HE rubs his eyes again and looks out over the audience.)

Land! Land! Ho!

(HE rings that ship's bell. EVERYONE comes running on stage.)

(To FINCH.) Land, Cap'n, land. Off the starboard side.

(EVERYONE looks out over the audience. FINCH takes out his spyglass and looks through it. HE takes out his half of the map.)

FINCH: Bobby Anne, ye half of the map, please.

(SHE takes her half and HE puts them together, FINCH looks at the map and then out over the audience.)

I'm sure of it, 'tis Mona Island, whar the Treasure of Cap'n Kidd lies.

(EVERYONE cheers.)

Drop anchor. Heave to the sails.

(If possible have the CREW lower the few sails that might be up. The CREW springs to action. BOBBY puts her half of the map away.)

HECTOR: *(To FINCH.)* What about the curse Cap'n?

BOBBY: I think I have the answer to that.

FINCH: Ye do?

BOBBY: Aye. The curse says that any mortal man who removes the Treasure of Cap'n Kidd will be curse. I not be a man but a woman, therefore, if I and me lady friends were to remove the treasure we would not be cursed. Once we bring it back to the ship and a woman opens it, the curse should be broken and we can divide up the treasure among us.

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(FINCH thinks on this.)

HECTOR: Seems simple enough.

FINCH: But will it work? *(To BOBBY.)* Are ye and yer lady friends willing to take the risk? If the curse not be broken ye and yer lady friends will die a painful death over and over again for all eternity.

BOBBY: I think they will agree.

FINCH: *(Calling out.)* Avast, me hearties.

(EVERYONE gathers around FINCH and BOBBY.)

The treasure awaits us, but first we must take heed of the curse, and that be whar our lady friends can help.

BOBBY: Me lady friends, as ye know there be a curse on the treasure. A curse that says that any mortal man who removes the treasure from it's island resting place and opens the chest will rest no more and die a painful death over and over again, for all eternity. But I think I have a way to break the curse.

ROSIE: What 'tis it Bobby Anne?

BOBBY: I be telling ye. The curse says any mortal man, but we not be a man, but a woman, so if me thinking be correct, if we ladies were to remove the treasure chest and bring it aboard the ship and if we were the ones to open it, I believe that the curse will be broken.

ALLIE: But what if ye be wrong?

BOBBY: Then the curse will be upon us. I can't be making ye go, so each women will have to decided for herself to risk her own life. 'Tis a risk, but also a chance. A chance to get the life we have been looking for. What do ye say ladies? Are ye behind me?

ROSIE: *(Steps forward.)* I be with ye, Bobby Anne. *(To the OTHER LADIES.)* What do ye say ladies?

POLLY: *(Stepping forward.)* Aye, I be there too.

(One by one the LADIES step forward and say "Aye.")

FINCH: I think Hector and I will accompany ye ladies, but at a safe distance.

BOBBY: Ye don't trust us, hey Cap'n?

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