

# A Pirate's Tale Script

A silly play in one act by Janea Dahl

## PROLOGUE

*(Two pirates, STRING BEAN and Bartholomew the Huge, run onto stage from opposite directions. They crisscross upstage and disappear again offstage. Then they run back on downstage and meet center stage.)*

### STRING BEAN

What has eight arms and eight legs?

### DIRTY ROBERT

Eight pirates!

*(They run offstage, and two more pirates (CUTTHROAT TOM and ONE-EYED JACK) run on in the same fashion, crisscrossing and meeting down center.)*

### CUTTHROAT TOM

How much does a pirate pay for piercings?

### ONE-EYED JACK

I dunno.

### CUTTHROAT TOM

A buck an ear. Get it? A buccaneer!

*(They run offstage and two more pirates, BLOODY WILLIAM and IVAN THE WICKED, run downstage. One stands DR and one DL.)*

## SCENE ONE

### BLOODY WILLIAM

Scene one!

### IVAN THE WICKED

Captain Goodfellow looks for a ship!

*(They run offstage as a crew of pirates, DIRTY ROBERT, Short Stack, Bartholomew the Huge, BLOODY WILLIAM, STRING BEAN, CUTTHROAT TOM, ONE EYED JACK, and FLINT led by CAPTAIN GOODFELLOW enter stage right.*

### NARRATOR

Once upon a time, there was a pirate Captain named "Goodfellow." True to his name he was a very good fellow. He always felt bad about stealing things from other people. One day, his ship sank, and he had to go looking for a new one. So, he went to the local ship dealer with his right-hand man, Flint... who had NO trouble stealing and being mean to people.

**Flint** *(to Captain Goodfellow)*

We're supposed to *steal* a ship, not *buy* one.

### GOODFELLOW

Well, that's not very nice, now is it?

### FLINT

We're pirates! We're not supposed to be nice.

### GOODFELLOW

Ah, right, right. But we're here now. We may as well take a look.

*(The crew approaches a ship seller, MUTTON, who leans against a huge, candy-striped ship with the word PEPPERMINT emblazoned across the bow.)*

### MUTTON

Me name's Mutton. Looking for a ship, are ye?

### GOODFELLOW

*(trying to sound mean)*

Arg! We need a ship as dark as night and as fast as lightning--

### MUTTON

This here's all I got.

### GOODFELLOW

Oh, well then, I guess we'll take it.

### FLINT

*(pulling Goodfellow aside)*

We can't take *that* ship.

### GOODFELLOW

Oh?

### FLINT

Look at it. We're supposed to *scare* people, not make them laugh.

### GOODFELLOW

Right. Right.

*(Flint marches up to Mutton.)*

### FLINT

Look here, Leg O' Lamb--

**MUTTON**

The name's Mutton.

**FLINT**

Whatever. This ship won't do.

**GOODFELLOW** *(whispers)*

You see, we're pirates. We're in search of a magic buried treasure. I have a map that's been passed down from my father's father to my father--

*(Flint runs over and puts his hand over Goodfellow's mouth.)*

**FLINT**

We just need a ship that's frightening.

*(Flint rolls his eyes, as Mutton starts to head offstage.)*

**MUTTON**

Ah! Why didn't you say so! I'll fix ya right up!

**GOODFELLOW**

He's going to fix it!

**ONE-EYED JACK**

Maybe he has another ship.

**BARTHOLOMEW THE HUGE**

I'm sure that's it.

*(The pirates nod in agreement as Mutton returns with a plank bearing the words, THE DREAD SHIP, which he sticks on the ship right above the word PEPPERMINT.)*

**MUTTON**

That oughta do it.

**GOODFELLOW**

Ah! Much better.

*(He empties a pouch of gold coins and hands them over as Flint throws his hands in the air.)*

**NARRATOR**

Captain Goodfellow and his crew climbed aboard the Dread Ship Peppermint and started their search for the magical buried treasure.

*(All pirates move the boat to center stage and "climb in" as two pirates, SHORT STACK and DIRTY ROBERT come downstage R and L.)*

**SCENE TWO**

**DIRTY ROBERT**

Scene two!

**SHORT STACK**

The pirates set sail in search of treasure!

*(SHORT STACK and DIRTY ROBERT stay outside of the boat and make "waves" signifying that the ship is adrift on the sea. Actors can use "wave" props. Flint holds the wheel of the ship as Goodfellow studies a treasure map.)*

**GOODFELLOW**

According to this map, when the moon is below us, we shall find Sugar Island. It looks like a clump of dirt that has a crooked palm tree growing straight down into the earth.

*(Flint grabs the map while steering and turns it right-side up.)*

Ah ha! No wonder my father never found the treasure!

*(The pirates making "waves" become more frenzied.)*

**CUTTHROAT TOM**

A storm's a brewin'!

**IVAN THE WICKED**

That's land ahoy!

**BARTHOLOMEW**

We'll not make it!

*(The whole boat begins to shake. Pirates hang on for dear life. The boat flattens, and the pirates collapse... washed ashore, they lie sprawled on the beach.)*

**SCENE THREE**

**ONE-EYED JACK**

Scene Three!

*(Another pirate pops his head up...)*

**STRING BEAN**

Flint plans a mutiny!

*(Both pirates lie back down and pretend to be passed out. Flint is the first to awake. He wakes up CUTTHROAT TOM who is still verrry sleepy and pulls him downstage.)*

**NARRATOR**

Flint had an evil plan. As soon as the ship landed on the island, he was planning on turning all of the men against Captain Goodfellow. He had asked Cutthroat Tom, who was afraid of the sight of blood, to talk to all of the pirates and convince them to make Flint the new captain.

**FLINT**

You remember what we talked about earlier?

**CUTTHROAT TOM** *(rubbing his eyes)*

Yeah, I don't like my cereal without milk either, too bad we can't bring a cow aboard ship—

**FLINT**

--Not that! *(he whispers to Cutthroat)*

**CUTTHROAT TOM**

Oh! The MUTINY!

**FLINT**

Shhhhhh!

**CUTTHROAT TOM** *(whispering)*

The mutiny.

**FLINT**

Have you spoken to all of the men?

**CUTTHROAT TOM**

All but one.

**FLINT**

Who's left?

**CUTTHROAT TOM**

Captain Goodfellow. I can get to him today.

**FLINT**

No! Don't tell the Captain!

**CUTTHROAT TOM**

--Really, it's no problem. I just haven't had time with all of the deck swabbing and sail hoisting.

**FLINT**

--Just, just never mind. *I'll take care of the Captain.*

**CUTTHROAT TOM**

You sure it's no trouble?

*(Flint shakes his head as the rest of the pirates start waking up. One pirate stands upstage with his arms up in the air, sort of eerie and crooked. This pirate (the one who played Mutton in the first scene) tries to keep up this pose throughout the next few scenes... occasionally losing his balance and falling over and grimacing a lot throughout the ordeal. One-Eyed Jack sees it first.)*

**SCENE FOUR**

**ONE-EYED JACK**

Scene Four!

**STRING BEAN**

The pirates find Sugar Island.

**ONE-EYED JACK**

Captain! Captain! There... look at that tree!

**GOODFELLOW**

*(pulling out his map, checking it against the figure in the distance)*

By jove, I think we've found Sugar Island!

*(STRING BEAN leans down and tastes the sand.)*

**FLINT**

What do you think you're doin'?

**STRING BEAN**

Checkin' to see if it's sugar.

**FLINT**

Well?

**STRING BEAN** *(swallowing a mouthful of sand)*

Nope.

**SHORT STACK**

What's the map say next, Captain?

**GOODFELLOW**

Next, we take five hundred paces--

**IVAN THE WICKED**

Five hundred paces! We'll be over the island and back into the water.

**BARTHOLOMEW**

Maybe it's five hundred paces around the island.

**IVAN THE WICKED**

You mean in circles?

**BARTHOLOMEW**

Precisely.

**STRING BEAN**

Makes sense.

**CUTTHROAT TOM**

Where do we start?

*(Flint shakes his head and sits downstage...just watching.)*

**GOODFELLOW**

Since we landed over there, and the moon is up there... I think we should start... here. *(he picks an arbitrary spot.)*

*(The pirates smush together in a tightly squeezed line and start walking as a unit. Goodfellow counts. Some pirates can step on each other's toes, some bump into one another, some call out, "Ouch." They are a clumsy group as they walk in a big circle around the stage. Two pirates, DIRTY ROBERT and BLOODY WILLIAM, break away and call out from downstage left and downstage right.)*

**SCENE FIVE**

**DIRTY ROBERT**

Scene Five!

**BLOODY WILLIAM**

The pirates keep searching for buried treasure.

*(Robert and William rejoin the group as Captain Goodfellow continues to lead the tiring men in circles.)*

**GOODFELLOW**

Three hundred sixty-seven.... three hundred sixty-eight... three hundred sixty-nine...

*(Two pirates, ONE-EYED JACK and IVAN THE WICKED, break away again and stand downstage.)*

**SCENE SIX**

**ONE-EYED JACK**

Scene Six!

**IVAN THE WICKED**

More of the same!

**ONE-EYED JACK**

What?

**IVAN THE WICKED**

That's what it said in the script.

*(They shrug and rejoin the group, still walking in circles.)*

**GOODFELLOW**

Four hundred ninety-seven... four hundred ninety-eight... four hundred ninety-nine... *(he halts) five hundred!*

*(Everyone pauses for a moment as they realize what has happened.)*

**SHORT STACK**

We're exactly where we started.

**GOODFELLOW**

*(as if he's solved a mystery)*

Interesting. Very interesting... who has the shovel?

*(One pirate after another looks to the person next to him, each shaking his head "no," until the last one looks at Flint, still sitting downstage.)*

**FLINT**

*(sarcastically)*

Interesting. Very interesting.

**GOODFELLOW**

Sticks will do as well... get to work, men!

*(The pirates all chip in and start to work on digging a hole in the sand. They really put their all into it... but alas, they are an uncoordinated bunch. Some get dirt in their eye. Some get dirt poured on them by the fellow next to them. Flint watches in amazement at the incompetence of the group. He bends down and picks up the treasure map.*

*(He immediately "sees" something on the map.)*

**FLINT**

Uh, Captain?

**GOODFELLOW**

Busy digging.

**FLINT**

But Captain? You'll want to see this. He motions for Goodfellow to join him.

*(Goodfellow climbs out of the hole and joins Flint downstage. Flint holds the map.)*

Do you see this?

**GOODFELLOW**

Yes.

**FLINT**

What is it?

**GOODFELLOW**

That's a coffee stain.

**FLINT**

Not *that*... that!

**GOODFELLOW**

Oh, that's the treasure.

*(Flint waits for him to recognize what he's saying.)*

The treasure! It's right under the tree!

*(The pirate posing as the tree looks at the box he's standing on.)*

Ahoy! Men! Stop digging! The treasure's-

**NARRATOR**

Just then, Flint seized his chance to turn against Captain Goodfellow.

**SCENE SEVEN**

**ONE-EYED JACK**

Scene Seven!

**IVAN THE WICKED**

The mutiny!

**FLINT**

*(drawing his sword)*

Not so fast.

**GOODFELLOW**

What's this?

**FLINT**

Sorry, Captain. Men?

*(About half of the men draw their swords.)*

**NARRATOR**

Flint realized that only half of the men were siding with him and half were with Captain Goodfellow. He calls out for CUTTHROAT TOM.

**FLINT**

What's this? Tom, I thought you said you talked to all the men.

**CUTTHROAT TOM**

I did.

**FLINT**

Well...

**CUTTHROAT TOM**

Not all of them said "yes!"

**NARRATOR**

Suddenly, the pirates realize what's about to happen. There's going to be a fight!

**STRING BEAN**

Fight!

*(All of the pirates draw their swords and begin to fight. Some run from each other, some try and fight. Various things fly from the melee, a rubber chicken, a wig, a frisbee. The fight goes on for a minute or two.)*

**GOODFELLOW**

Stop!

*(The pirates don't stop.)*

**GOODFELLOW**

Stop, I say!

*(Actors must find a funny way to end the fight.)*

**NARRATOR**

Captain Goodfellow realized he'd had enough.

**GOODFELLOW**

Flint, you're more of a pirate than me. I hereby relinquish command of this crew to you.

**PIRATES IN UNISON**

No! You can't do it, Captain! No!

**GOODFELLOW**

Argh. It's for the best, men. I never really had it in me to hurt other people and steal their things. Flint, the treasure is all yours.

*(Flint drops his sword and greedily runs to the treasure box, throws it open, and gasps.)*

**PIRATES IN UNISON**

What? What is it? What's in the box?

**FLINT**

Candy.

**PIRATES IN UNISON**

Candy? What, no gold?

**FLINT**  
Candy! That's all there is.

*(Flint growls in disgust and runs away in a huff.)*

**PIRATES IN UNISON**  
Candy? Yeah!

*(They race toward the box gobbling up mouthfuls in sheer delight.)*

**BARTHOLOMEW**  
Captain? Captain, look?

**GOODFELLOW**  
What's that Bart?

**BARTHOLOMEW**  
The candy.

**IVAN THE WICKED**  
Hey. The more we take, the more it fills back up.

**ONE-EYED JACK**  
The legend did say that the treasure was magic!

**GOODFELLOW**  
I have an idea!

*(Two pirates, DIRTY ROBERT and SHORT STACK, run downstage.)*

#### SCENE EIGHT

**SHORT STACK**  
Scene Eight!

**DIRTY ROBERT**

The Pirates find a new career.

*(Two pirates enter carrying a big sign that reads, "The Candy Chest!" They each stand on a box holding up the sign like a storefront, or they hold long poles that support the sign. One pirate stands outside the "shop." While GOODFELLOW and CUTTHROAT TOM stand inside the shop with baskets full of candy.)*

**NARRATOR**

With a never-ending supply of candy, the pirates decided to open up their very own candy stand right there on the boardwalk where all of the tourists were. Their shop soon became the most popular store on the beach. A steady stream of happy customers came through every day, rain or shine.

**STRING BEAN**  
Candy, get yer fresh, delicious candy!

**PIRATES**  
(ad-lib lines about candy) Sweet candy! Come and get it! Yummy for your Tummy! Sugar, sugar, sugar!

*(Meanwhile upstage, Flint drags the old Dread Ship Peppermint across the stage.)*

**NARRATOR**  
But Flint decided that he wasn't ready for a career as a candy man. He stole a bucket of black paint and climbed aboard the Dread Ship Peppermint.

**FLINT**  
We'll have you fixed up in no time. *(He grumbles as he drags it offstage.)*

**NARRATOR**  
Not one pirate went with him. They were too busy at the candy stand.

**GOODFELLOW (TO CUTTHROAT TOM)**  
Candy store is good business, eh?

**CUTTHROAT TOM**  
Aye, Captain. Life is sweet.

#### **THE END**

*(After the show is over, create a curtain call, and announce that children in the audience can come get a free piece of magic candy after the show.)*

