

Peter and the Starcatcher

~~THE BOYS'LL BE SOLD,
OR IT'S DOWN, OR IT'S DOWN WE GO.~~

~~Slank Shroud the hemp and jigger the futtocks!
Sailors~~

~~OR IT'S DOWN, OR IT'S DOWN WE GO!~~

~~Narrator Alf With everything safely aboard, final preparations are made on the deck of the *Neverland*.~~

~~Trimly uniformed BRITISH SEAMEN march on, accompanied by a military cadence.~~

~~Seamen~~

~~CALL ALL HANDS TO MAN THE CAPSTAN,
RUN THE CABLE DOWN THE CHROME.
HEAVE AWAY, AND SAY G'BYE, BOYS,
FAR FROM ENGLAND, FAR FROM HOME.~~

~~The SEAMEN snap to attention, smart and neat.~~

~~Narrator Seaman Prentiss A squadron of British Navy seamen in bright, smart uniforms boards the *Neverland*—~~

~~Narrator Seaman Greggors — led by none other than Lieutenant Greggors, ready to accompany Lord Leonard Aster to Her Majesty's vessel, the *Wasp*.~~

~~GREGGORS wears a naval officer's hat. The *Neverland's* ragtag sailors stare jealously at the grandeur of these navy sea dogs.~~

~~Greggors Captain Scott's compliments, your Lordship! But could you join him aboard the *Wasp* as soon as possible!~~

~~Aster A moment. Captain Slank!~~

~~SLANK emerges from the shadows, whip in hand.~~

~~Slank Here, yer Lordship.~~

~~Aster I'm taking the Queen's treasure to Rundoon aboard~~

Act One: Scene One

the *Wasp*, but I leave a more precious cargo here on the *Neverland*. Guard her well. (gives SLANK a gold coin, calls) Mrs. Bumbrake, bring her to me! (MOLLY runs to ASTER's outstretched arms.) Molly, my Molly. Molly Please let me come with you. I don't like it on this ship.

Aster You're safer here on the *Neverland*. By the time you arrive in Rundoon, I'll have completed my mission, and we'll be together again.

The ship's cat sidles up to MOLLY's legs, meowing affectionately.

Molly Look, Daddy — the cat, the ship's cat. A lucky sign!

Here, puss, puss . . .

Aster Molly! Careful!

Molly ~~It's nothing, Daddy. It's a sweet little puss, isn't it . . .~~

The cat meows sweetly in MOLLY's arms.

Mrs. Bumbrake Our Molly loves all God's little creatures.

MRS. BUMBRAKE hands the purring cat to a passing SAILOR.

Molly (ever so bravely) Daddy . . . I know you don't need my help in Rundoon, but I've got to start pulling my weight sometime.

Aster You're all grown up, aren't you.

Molly I am, Daddy. Courage now, promise?

Aster Promise.

Molly (giving in to tears) Oh dear.

Two SAILORS topple a crate very near to Molly's head.

Narrator Slank Just then, the crate of boys bursts open!