



Black John the Bogus Pirate

A Story by John Joyce

Black John the Bogus Pirate



John Black was a young sign-writer in Baltimore, County Cork when Barbary pirates raided the town in 1631. John was forced to work on one of the pirate ships and his family were taken as slaves to the Caribbean. Things got even worse when he was captured by the Spanish and John was to be brought to Spain in chains on a treasure ship to be hung as a pirate.



With him were other prisoners including 'Smithy' - a mad English shipwright who dreamed of crazy inventions, Zelda - an apprentice voodoo witch who was to be burned at the stake along with her brother Amos who she had accidentally turned into a cat. There was also 'Molly' - a young Spanish lady from the Spanish colonies in the

Caribbean being forced to marry an ugly old Duke back in Madrid.

Molly had the idea of tricking the Spanish crew to abandon ship by pretending to set it on fire near the island of Lanzarote. Then John, Molly, Zelda and Smithy, together with Smithy's parrot 'Loppy' who always mixed up his words, sailed back to the Caribbean to find John's family.

But the Spanish captain had heard Loppy call John Black 'Black John' and, to save face at having his ship and its treasure stolen, spread the story that 'Black John' the dangerous pirate had done it. Soon every ship in the Caribbean was searching the seas for 'Black John' to get the gold for themselves.

So Molly told John that the only way to find his family was to pretend he REALLY WAS 'Black John' the dangerous pirate. She made John a false beard to cover his face and stuffed a pillow up his shirt to make him look fierce and strong.

Now 'Black John - the Bogus Pirate' sails the waters of the Caribbean with his rag-tag crew, each with their own personal quest. John wants to find his long lost family. Zelda wants to be a real witch. The Zombies want to be men again. Smithy wants to be famous for his crazy inventions and Molly wants to find someone to love.

Join them on deck of 'The Mucky Duck' for fun, adventure and a new way of looking at the Sea? For more about 'Black John' go to <http://www.spindriftpress.com/childrens-books/black-john-the-bogus-pirate/>