

The Foolish
Captain...



By: Jacky A.

The Foolish Captain....

By Kaelyn

The salty tang of the sea was blown throughout the ship's masts, making the ship move in a steady pace. It was noon, the middle of the day. The sun was making the ship's sails have a ghostly white tinge to them. The crewmen worked at a steady beat, whistling as they pulled the ropes and swept the floors. The captain walked along the deck, admiring the cannons, ready to attack at any second. Then, out of the blue, a seagull's cry was heard. The seagull flew around the ship and disappeared into the sky. The captain secretly smiled, for they were entering foreign waters, then he would soon destroy the unsuspecting country of England. Then with the villagers in chains, as well as the soldiers, they would threaten the king and force him to step aside from the throne. The plan was simple yet deadly, but little did the captain know he would never reach England.

"Sir, captain... sir?" said a feeble voice. It was coming from a small man.

"What now? Can't you see I'm thinking?" the captain bellowed!

"Um, sorry... could y - you", the man stopped short.

"Well, spit it out", the captain said!

The man winced like a dog whining for food. With tremendous difficulty, he managed to form the words; “trouble, on the lower decks”. The captain yelled with rage, making the crewmen stop all their work. That only made the captain even madder.

“Well, go see to it!” The captain screamed. “And you, why did you stop?”

“I-”, the crewman stuttered. The captain walked up to him.

“I-”, the captain mimicked in his flimsy voice. The captain mocked him. He said a few words which only made the crewman droop with sadness.

“Get off my ship”, the captain whispered in a creepy voice. The crewman had a look of horror on his face, like a silent, unheard scream.

“But I can’t swim”, the crewman replied. A snort like a satisfied pig was heard in the back. Apparently, it was the cook.

“Do you want to join him”, the captain replied devilishly, once these horrifying words were spoken, sending a chill rippling against the cook’s backside.

“No... I”, the cook started, but the captain cut him off.

“Then finish those fish”, the captain bellowed. “I’m hungry”.

“Yes, sir”, the cook replied in a meek voice, rooted to the spot.

“Don’t just stand there, I’m hungry”!

The cook snapped out of his trance, and rushed to the lower decks like a rabbit being chased by a coyote. A rattle and a crash were heard before all the noise was gone. The quietness was unnerving, like earmuffs were covering the earth. All was quiet. The captain scowled. What a lousy group, the captain thought. I can’t believe how lousy they are too, the captain thought.

“Well, get busy”, the captain snarled. Right away, the crewmen started pulling ropes, like the captain never yelled or no one was banned from the boat and the cook never ran like a rabbit scared out of its wits. The captain sighed, and retreated to his cabin.

The captain’s eyes snapped open. A noise had woken him up. Anger burned and churned inside him. He groggily walked to the door of his cabin. Who would wake me up – whoever did is in serious trouble, the captain thought. He opened the door and there was a big battle going on. The captain flared with anger. You could practically see the steam billowing out of his ears!

“Who’s responsible for this nonsense?” the captain bellowed out in rage! The crewmen stopped mid-fight; all eyes were on the captain.

“I think I know who is”, a mousy-looking crewman said.

“Go on”, the captain replied with a look of interest.

“It was the cook”, the small crewman replied. All eyes were on the cook then.

“I”, the cook started, but the captain cut him off.

“So, it seems you are lazy and you aren’t doing your job. As a punishment, you are banned from this boat.” The cook went tense with fear. The captain laughed.

“What a fool you are”, the captain whispered to the cook.

“How may I reward you”, the captain said to the crewman. “Without you, I’d be stuck”.

“I’d like the cook’s job, please”, the crewman replied without hesitation.

“Very well. Good night then”, the captain said.

“Same to you”, the new cook replied.

The next few days were uneventful. The sailors could’ve been spooked by the captain’s latest actions, or the captain was thinking so hard no one wanted to bother him, but that wasn’t

it. The gloomy fog came in and all the sailors seemed sad and quiet. The fog even affected the captain. The small sailor would come occasionally with heaps of food on his tray. With each serving the captain felt drowsier than before until he finally fell asleep.

The only source of light in the room was a single candle. The flame was swaying and dancing. The captain woke up. The only person in the room was the cook.

“I thought you’d never wake up”, the cook said.

“What’s going on, cook?” the captain asked.

“That’s captain, now, and nothing’s wrong”, the cook smiled.

“You’re not captain, I am!” the captain’s voice rose.

“Was”, the small cook said simply.

“Tell me what’s going on – no lies!” the captain said.

“Well, if you really want to know. I told a lie; the original cook never did cause that big fight. I did. I just told you he did. Then, when you gave me anything I wanted, I wanted the old cook’s job. Next, I put sleeping powder in your food, told everyone you were dead, and that you left me the new captain. The only problem is you”, the sly cook replied.

“But why would you do such a thing”, the former captain asked?

“You would do anything for more power. Why not I?” The bad cook said as he put the captain on a plank of wood and pushed him out of the boat to the roaring sea.

Afterword:

The poor captain lost everything because of his bad choices and leadership skills. If he was a good leader and treated everyone fairly, he would've never lost his job. Apparently, he was a bad leader; everyone cowered at his presence, and he made too quick decisions. These are some bad leadership qualities. If he were a good leader the new cook would never have made that bad decision. The moral of this story is: bad leaders are often the ones who are in trouble, and try to not be a bad leader. Let's just hope this new captain is a better one.

