



The Ballad of the Pirate Queens

By Jane Yolen

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The Ballad of the Pirate Queens By Jane Yolen Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Based on a 1720 incident in which two female pirates escaped a death sentence because they were pregnant, this rollicking ballad is "offbeat and grimly amusing," said PW. Ages 4-12.

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From School Library Journal

Grade 3-6?"And silver the coins and silver the moon,/Silver the waves on the top of the sea..." Yolen writes a most unusual ballad of pirate adventure that sings the history of Anne Bonney and Mary Reade, the only 2 women of the 12 pirates aboard the *Vanity*. They defend the ship from the men of the governor's man-o'-war, *Albion*, while their captain and the rest of the crew are below drinking rum and playing cards. The females are absolutely the best and bravest of this bad lot. The *Vanity* is taken; all are brought to trial, but Anne and Mary escape hanging by "pleading their bellies" (claiming they are pregnant), a page taken from history for which Yolen provides notes. Shannon's acrylics are rich, dark, and realistic, and expand upon the story.

Faces glow as they did in his work for Rafe Martin's *Rough-Face Girl* (Putnam, 1992). The depth of the art is reminiscent of great classic illustrators working in oil, especially N.C. Wyeth. This is not for the faint of heart?no good pirate story is?as pirates are not a God-fearing lot. But it is for those who crave high adventure, death-defying acts, and an unflinching glimpse into history. A rousing read-aloud.?Helen

Gregory, Grosse Pointe Public Library, MI

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From [Booklist](#)

Gr. 3⁺-5. Finally, equal time for female ruffians. In this picture book for older readers, Yolen's ballad recounts the last stand of Anne Bonney and Mary Reade, real-life women pirates of the early 1700s. When a government vessel attacked their ship, Anne and Mary fought back fiercely. Although they called to their fellow pirates for help, their male comrades (including the women's "husbands") lolled below deck, drinking rum and playing cards. The men were hanged, but the women "pled their bellies," and the judge freed the pregnant pirates. Yolen's jingly rhymes are a little forced in places but lend themselves well to theatrical reading aloud. Shannon's very handsome acrylic paintings convey the tale's excitement with dramatic compositions in bold reds against smoky backgrounds. The eighteenth-century feeling is enhanced by pen-and-ink borders and the use of a parchment-colored background for the text. Pirate fans will enjoy Yolen's informative author's note--and the alluring skull and crossed swords on the back cover. *Leone McDermott*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Linda Callaway:

In this 21st millennium, people become competitive in every single way. By being competitive right now, people have to do something to make these individuals survive, being in the middle of the particular crowded place and notice through surrounding. One thing that oftentimes many people have underestimated that for a while is reading. That's why, by reading a reserve your ability to survive raise then having chance to endure than other is high. For you who want to start reading some sort of book, we give you this *The Ballad of the Pirate Queens* book as starter and daily reading publication. Why, because this book is more than just a book.

Archie Williams:

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John Ray:

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