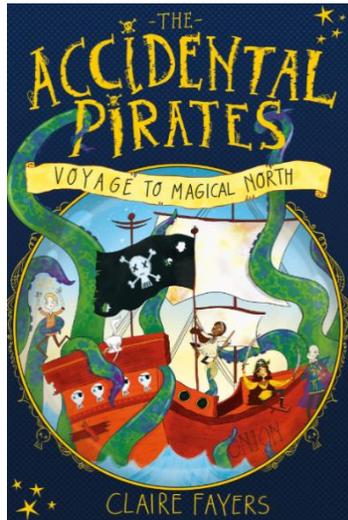
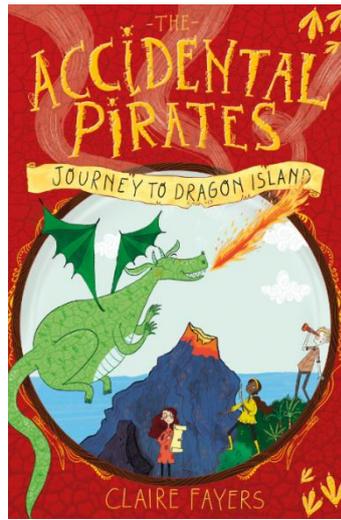


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Ahoy crewmates and fellow readers! First of all, a big, piratey three cheers to you on behalf of authors everywhere. Books need readers, and every time a child says they don't believe in stories, an author dies. Or is that Peter Pan and fairies? Anyway, whenever a story is forgotten, something very special dies, so you people are performing a very important, very precious task.

Now, cast your reading aside just for a moment and gather on deck while I tell you about my all-time favourite accidental pirates.



1. Captain Henry Morgan

Henry Morgan was born in South Wales in 1635 then moved to the Caribbean where he made a name for himself attacking Spanish ships. Because England and Spain were at war, he was allowed to do this, which made him a buccaneer rather than a proper pirate. But then he decided to attack Spanish-owned Panama, not knowing that England and Spain had signed a peace treaty. This counted as an act of piracy, and so Henry Morgan became an accidental pirate.

<http://www.thewayofthepirates.com/famous-buccaneers/henry-morgan/>



2. The Dread Pirate Roberts, *The Princess Bride*

The Princess Bride is one of my favourite films. It's about stories and friendship and True Love, plus it has fire swamps inhabited by rodents of unusual size. The Dread Pirate Roberts is a title handed down from captain to captain, and the current Roberts took the job after being captured by the previous Roberts. That counts as pretty accidental.

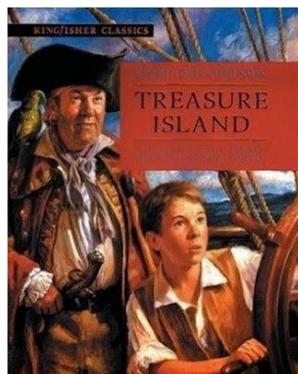
<http://princessbrideforever.com/>



3. Captain Jack Sparrow, *Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl*

My list wouldn't be complete without my other favourite pirate film. Is Jack Sparrow an accidental pirate? He seems to be accident prone, but most of his accidents work out so well they could have been planned.

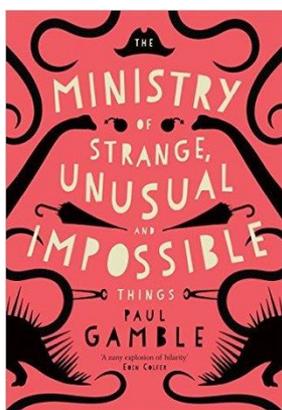
<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0325980/>



4. Long John Silver, *Treasure Island* by Robert Louis Stevenson

There is nothing accidental about the one-legged pirate from Treasure Island. He schemes, he plots, he connives, he lies and he kills without mercy. And yet, there's something strangely likeable about him. You'd certainly never forget meeting him – if you lived to tell the tale.

https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/295.Treasure_Island

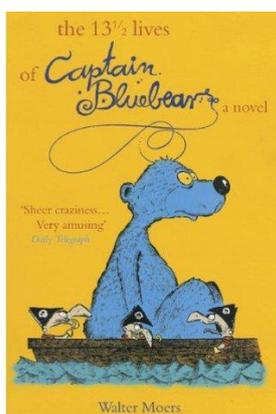


5. Blackbeard Junior, *The Ministry of Suits* by Paul Gamble

In the middle of the street lay a single shoe, an unmistakable warning that there was an escaped pirate somewhere nearby. Blackbeard Junior is the descendant of Blackbeard himself, and he decided to become a pirate so he's not accidental, but a lot of his crew are.

This is one of the funniest books I read last year, full of jokes and interesting facts about pirates and ninjas. If you like *The Accidental Pirate*, you will love it.

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/25226188-the-ministry-of-s-u-i-t-s>



6. Captain Bluebear, *The Thirteen and a half Lives of Captain Bluebear*, Walter Moers

One birthday, I challenged my husband to buy me a book I'd never heard of but that I would fall in love with. This is the book he came home with. I'd never heard of it and I fell in love with it. Bluebear's weird and magnificent seafaring adventures owe more to Sinbad than to pirate stories, but he is raised by Minipirates, so I'm including him.

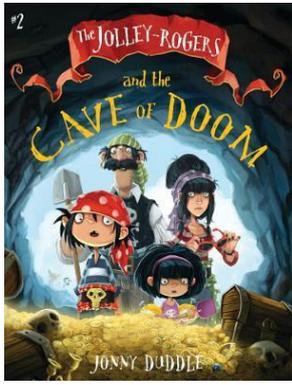
https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/62032.The_13_Lives_of_Captain_Bluebear



7. Captain Hook, *Hook's Daughter* by Heidi Schulz

No one knows how Peter Pan's arch-nemesis became a pirate. I doubt it was accidental, but the loss of his hand was certainly an accident. You don't deliberately hold out your hand for a crocodile to bite it off.

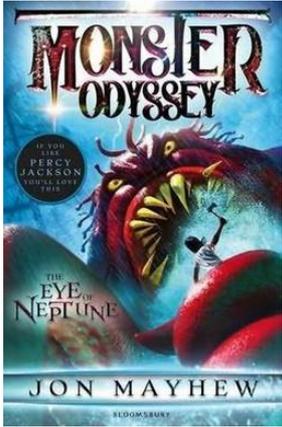
<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/23255173-hook-s-daughter>



8. *The Jolley-Rogers by Jonny Duddle*

I love this pirate series for younger readers by Welshman Jonny Duddle. The Cave of Doom is my favourite, but the whole series is great fun with fab illustrations. The Jolley-Rogers aren't really accidental pirates, but I'm including them because they're so much fun.

<http://www.jonny-duddle.com/>



9. *Captain Nemo, Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea by Jules Verne*

Captain Nemo is quite tragic. He has rejected the world, hates everybody, and chooses to live underwater in the *Nautilus*. Jules Verne doesn't tell us how Captain Nemo became a pirate. For the full story, you should read the Monster Odyssey books by Jon Mayhew, which tell the story of Nemo as a boy.

<http://www.jonmayhew.co.uk/>



10 *Anne Bonny and Mary Read*

Finally, if you thought girls couldn't be pirates, think again. Anne Bonny and Mary Read were best friends and sailed together on the pirate ship *Revenge*. Anne Bonny married a pirate and Mary Read, who spent a lot of time dressed as a boy, was captured by pirates and joined them, a bit like Brine and Peter.

<http://mentalfloss.com/article/58889/9-female-pirates-you-should-know>