

# The Pirates of Chesapeake Bay

*Book by Phil Nelson*  
*Music by Wayne Simpson*

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# THE PIRATES OF CHESAPEAKE BAY

Story by PHIL NELSON

Music by WAYNE SIMPSON

## THE CAST

(in order of appearance)

### TOWNSPEOPLE

MRS. SUTTON.....A widow  
ROGER.....Her son  
PATRICIA .....Her daughter

TOWN CITIZEN #1  
TOWN CITIZEN #2

SQUIRE TRUSDALE.....Head of the Town Council; Justice of the Peace  
MR. BAILEY.....A member of the Town Council  
MR. ROMAINE.....Another  
MR. CARLSON.....Another

JACK.....Boy who works at the Ram's Horn  
MR. SCRUGG.....Landlord of the Ram's Horn

### SERVING MAIDS

### PIRATES

### SEAMAN

CAPT. DANIELS .....Pirate Captain

MRS. TROY.....A woman of King's Harbor  
MRS. BANNER.....Another  
MRS. OGDEN.....Another

SAILORS.....Crew of the frigate "Unicorn"

SAILOR #1  
SAILOR #2

CAPT. HULL.....Captain of the "Unicorn"

MILITIAMEN.....Made up of townspeople

PIRATE #1.....Three of the pirates  
PIRATE #2  
PIRATE #3

## MUSICAL NUMBERS

- NO. 1 ACTION! ACTION!...Townspeople
- No. 2 WE'VE GOT A PROBLEM!...Squire, Bailey, Carlson, Romaine
- NO. 3 WHAT WILL THIS EVENING BRING?...Roger, Patricia
- No. 4 DANCE OF THE SERVING MAIDS...Maids From Ram's Horn
- No. 5 THE LIFE OF A PIRATE...Capt.Daniels, All Pirates
- No. 6 WE'LL MAKE A MINT, MATE!...Capt. Daniels, Bailey
- No. 7 OUR LEADERS ARE GONE!...Troy, Banner, Ogden, Sutton, and Townspeople
- No. 8 WE'RE GOING TO GET THOSE PIRATES!...Troy, Banner, Ogden, and Sutton
- No. 9 I DON'T WANT TO BE A PIRATE ANY MORE!.... Pirates
- No. 10 CHESAPEAKE BAY!...Entire Cast

### ACT I

- SCENE 1 - The Town Hall  
SCENE 2 - The Ram's Horn

### ACT II

- SCENE 1 - The Ram's Horn  
SCENE 2 - In front of curtain

### ACT III

- SCENE 1 - The Town Hall  
SCENE 2 - In front of curtain  
SCENE 3 - On the frigate "Unicorn"

## ACT I - Scene 1

*(AT RISE: It is evening. At the Town Hall the citizens, including MRS. SUTTON and her two CHILDREN, are in an informal group facing the council table, where sit the SQUIRE and the MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL. The CHILDREN are well behind MRS. SUTTON and she seems unaware of their presence. As the curtain opens, the TOWNSPEOPLE begin:)*

**MUSIC: SONG #1 - ACTION! ACTION!**

*(When the song ends, the TOWNSPEOPLE look at each other, nodding their heads as if to say "I guess we told them." MRS. SUTTON sees her CHILDREN and walks briskly to them.)*

MRS. SUTTON: Roger! Patricia! What on earth are you doing here? I thought you were at home.

ROGER: Aw, gee, Ma. We thought maybe we could help catch the pirates.

MRS. SUTTON: This is grown-up business...no place for children! Now you two get right home.

*(ROGER and PATRICIA shrug, start toward SR. ROGER is watching his MOTHER. As soon as her back is turned, HE pulls PATRICIA with him and THEY hide behind two chairs. The SQUIRE rises from his chair to face the angry CITIZENS.)*

SQUIRE: Now, now good people! I know you're upset about the piracy that has been going on. But, I assure you...

CITIZEN #1: *(Stepping forward)* You've assured us before, Squire Trusdale, but what good does that do? The pirates just keep on stopping the ships and stealing our trade goods and money. Why, just last week they got a whole load of fine tobacco that I was expecting from the Carolinas. And I'd already paid out good money for it!

CITIZEN #2: How about me? I was expecting a load of cotton from the Georgia Colony, and they got every last bale. And how about Mrs. Sutton here?

MRS. SUTTON: Something has got to be done, Squire. I've worked very hard to try to keep our dry goods business going since my husband passed away, but those rascals have just about ruined me! And with two children to feed, too.

*(There is a rumbling of angry murmuring from the TOWNSPEOPLE, and the SQUIRE holds up his hands for silence. The PEOPLE finally get quiet.)*

SQUIRE: All right! You want action, and you're going to get it! *(HE 'harumphs' a time or two, and loudly clears his throat.)* Yes indeed! Good people, I ask you to leave us now and return to your homes. These gentlemen and I will come up with a plan that will rid us and Chesapeake Bay of these scoundrels

once and for all. In fact, we have already begun to plot our course of action. Now, I must bid you all a good night. We have work to do!

*(The PEOPLE exit, SR. PATRICIA starts to get up from her hiding place, but ROGER pulls her down and motions for her to be quiet. As the last of the CITIZENS leave, the SQUIRE slumps back in his chair and sighs audibly.)*

- MR. ROMAINE: I didn't know we had a course of action, Squire.
- SQUIRE: We don't, but I had to tell them something. We can't keep stalling them forever. We do know that the pirates are using one of the islands in the bay as a hideout, but what good is that? We haven't been able to find it. *(HE raises his hands in despair.)* What are we going to do? What more can we do?
- MR. BAILEY: Gentlemen, we have to be practical. We've had Capt. Hull and his good ship "Unicorn" search every inch of Chesapeake Bay time after time, and they haven't found a trace of the pirates. I'm afraid that we're just going to have to admit that...
- MR. CARLSON: *(Interrupting)* I just thought of something! Someone was telling me the other day that there's a mighty tough looking crowd in the Ram's Horn almost every night. Why, I'd bet that some of them are pirates!
- SQUIRE: Ram's Horn? What's the Ram's Horn?
- MR. BAILEY: It's an inn, Squire -- a tavern down by the waterfront. Terrible place!
- MR. ROMAINE: Just awful!
- MR. CARLSON: *(Getting excited)* See what I mean? It's just the sort of low place pirates would pick. Now, what we need to do is to get someone to go down there and check it out. We need to...
- MR. BAILEY: *(Interrupting)* That's a wonderful idea, Carlson. Why don't you dress up like a rough sea-faring man and go down there tomorrow night?
- MR. CARLSON: Me? Go to a place like that? *(HE shrinks back.)* Oh, no, I couldn't do that! I just couldn't! *(Then, defiantly)* Besides, my wife wouldn't let me.
- MR. BAILEY: How about you, Romaine?
- MR. ROMAINE: No! Well, I mean, maybe if I were a younger man...
- MR. BAILEY: Oh, come off it! You wouldn't go there, and Carlson wouldn't, the Squire wouldn't, and I most certainly wouldn't. Going into a place like that would be taking your life in your hands.
- SQUIRE: *(Sadly)* Gentlemen, I agree. But, on the other hand, we've got to come up with something. Those people are angry. We have to face it...we've got a problem to solve!

**MUSIC: SONG #2 - WE'VE GOT A PROBLEM**

*(As the song ends, the SQUIRE and the COUNCIL MEMBERS shake hands sadly, and exit SL. Then ROGER and PATRICIA get up from their hiding place. THEY look disgusted.)*

- ROGER: How do you like that! While they stand around and wring their hands, those pirates are putting Ma and all the other folks out of business! Well, if they won't do something, I will, by golly!
- PATRICIA: What do you mean...you will? Roger, Ma was right. This is grown-up business!
- ROGER: But the grown-ups aren't doing anything -- as usual! The people are depending on the council, and you just heard what a bunch of nincompoops they are! Patricia, I've got an idea. Will you help me?
- PATRICIA: I don't know...Ma would be awful mad. *(Looks at ROGER, and we can see that SHE is interested.)* What kind of idea?
- ROGER: Well, I was thinking...you heard them talking about the Ram's Horn. Now, if we could find a way to...*(His voice fades away, and...)*

## CURTAIN

## ACT I - Scene 2

*(AT RISE: It is the following afternoon at the Ram's Head. The inn is deserted except for young JACK busily sweeping the floor. ROGER and PATRICIA enter quietly. JACK, intent on his sweeping, does not notice them. ROGER glances at PATRICIA, does a double-take, and whispers something to her. PATRICIA looks startled, and hastily pushes her hair up under her hat. JACK looks around seeing them for the first time.)*

- ROGER: Hello. You work here?
- JACK: Now what would give you that idea? I'm really the King of England. I just do this for exercise. *(Shakes his head in disgust)* Of course, I work here! What do you want?
- ROGER: Is the pay pretty good?
- JACK: No. And it's hard work, too. But I'll be leaving in about a week. I'm going to be an apprentice to Mr. Howe, the master carpenter. Going to learn me a trade.
- PATRICIA: A week! Roger, that's too long to wait!
- JACK: Too long? Too long for what? Say, who are you, anyhow?
- ROGER: My name's Roger, and this is my sis...I mean my brother, er, ah, my brother, Patrick. What's your name?
- JACK: My name's Jack. What's this all about, Roger?

ROGER: That's kind of a long story, Jack. I'm not sure I could make you understand. Listen...if you were to leave here right now, instead of next week, how much money would you lose?

JACK: Oh, I guess about three shillings. Why?

*(ROGER fishes in his pocket and comes up with three coins. HE hands them to JACK.)*

ROGER: There's three shillings. I really can't explain, but Pat...Patrick and I need this job.

JACK: *(Takes the money; counts it)* Three shillings, all right. Roger, you got yourself a deal. Mr. Scrugg...he's the landlord...he's upstairs taking a nap. He always does that in the afternoon, because things get pretty busy here in the evening. *(Hands ROGER the broom)* Here you get busy with this. And you, Patrick, you can start stacking those glasses over there. When Mr. Scrugg comes down, you just tell him that Mr. Howe sent for me to start right away, and that I got you to take over for me. He's not a bad sort if you get your work done. I'm sure he won't mind.

ROGER: Thanks, Jack. We'll do a good job.

*(JACK gives them a jaunty wave and goes out, whistling. ROGER begins to sweep the floor, and PATRICIA goes behind the bar and begins to stack the glasses. MR. SCRUGG enters, yawning, and stops in amazement when HE sees ROGER and PATRICIA.)*

MR. SCRUGG: Here now, what's this? Where's Jack?

ROGER: He had to leave. The carpenter wanted him to start now instead of next week. But he got us to replace him. I'm Roger, and this is my er...brother, Patrick.

MR. SCRUGG: Hold on here! I can't afford to pay two of you.

PATRICIA: Oh, please, Mr. Scrugg! We really need this job. We're good workers, and you can pay the two of us just what you paid Jack!

ROGER: That's right, sir. You'll be getting the two of us for the price of one.

MR. SCRUGG: Well, I don't know...you look like you might be a bit too well-mannered and refined for a place like this. We get a pretty tough crowd in here, you know. You might not be able to stand the...

ROGER: Don't worry about that, sir. We're tougher than we look. We'll get along just fine.

MR. SCRUGG: *(Rubs his chin, thinking)* Well, all right...we'll try you out, but if...anyhow, you keep working for now. We've got to get this place all shipshape for this evening. I've got to go out for a while. The grub and drink I ordered for tonight hasn't gotten here yet, and I have to light a fire under some of our high-class local merchants. I'll be back soon.

ROGER: Don't you worry about a thing, Mr. Scrugg. We'll have this place so clean you won't recognize it!

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