

# **In the Belly of the Bloodhound: Being an Account of a Particularly Peculiar Adventure in the Life of Jacky Faber (Bloody... Study Guide**

**In the Belly of the Bloodhound: Being an Account of a Particularly Peculiar Adventure in the Life of Jacky Faber (Bloody... by L.A. Meyer**

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## Plot Summary

Jacky Farber is a pirate, mischievous girl and officer. She has recently escaped the British authorities after fighting in the Battle of Trafalgar and is wanted for piracy. Jacky has returned to Boston, Massachusetts to wait for her fiance, Lieutenant James Fletcher to come for her. However, to avoid being caught by the British, she must return to Lawson Peabody School for Girls, a place she has lived in the past.

Jacky and her fellow students are kidnapped and taken aboard a slave ship bound for the North African slave markets. The girls are to be sold to brothels and harems in the Arab markets. Jacky and the girls must overcome their differences and make a plan to escape. Conditions on the ship are brutal. Food is bad, the girls are abused and there are rats. But the girls come together and are able to escape and return to Boston.



# Part 1: Chs. 1-9

## Part 1: Chs. 1-9 Summary

### Chapter 1

Boston. December 1, 1805. Jacky Farber pulls her boat, the Morning Star, into Boston Harbor. She relates that she has come all the way from Cape Trafalgar, Spain, and is certain the Americans don't know about the battle yet, because she sees British ships in the harbor. She has a bounty on her head and hopes no one sees her as more than just a simple fisherman's daughter. Jim Tanner, a wharf rat, meets her and asks if he can take care of her boat in exchange for money. Jacky hires him to move her boat, changes into women's clothing and sets off into Boston. She tells Jim her name is Nancy Alsop.

### Chapter 2

Jacky remembers her escape from the Battle of Trafalgar and leaving her beloved, Jaimy, Lieutenant James Emerson Fletcher. She intimates that she had been wearing a sailor's garb when escaping. She had made it out to sea, watching in the distance as Jaimy and other survivors and wounded had been helped onto a ship after battle. Jacky had been careful not to be seen so that she wouldn't be brought back to London, hanged and possibly tortured. She had been at sea during a violent storm and eventually rescued by an American merchant ship, the Enterprise, headed to Newport, Rhode Island. She had pretended to be a harmless girl so the captain would allow her and her vessel to board his ship. She reveals that the Morning Star is a lifeboat. Jacky befriends the captain's son, Andrew Billings. He falls for her, but she tells him she is newly re-engaged to Jaimy. Jacky and her boat part with the Billings' crew in Rhode Island and she sails to Boston Harbor, where she hopes Jaimy will come to find her.

### Chapter 3

Jacky is shopping for supplies and a fiddle in Rhode Island when she sees a wanted poster with her name on it. The poster states that she is a British citizen wanted by the Crown for piracy. She is 90 lbs, educated, has one white eyebrow and an anchor tattoo on her stomach. The poster states that Jacky is 16. There is a 250 pound sterling reward for her alive and 100 if she is dead; her head and tattoo preserved in alcohol are required as proof of death. The poster claims she can easily manipulate men, uses disguises, carries a knife and pistol and has killed many men. Jacky returns to the Morning Star and finds a cove to hide in for the night. She can't sleep and has been haunted by nightmares her entire life. She relates some of the horrible things she has seen and done. Jacky relates that she didn't want the blue anchor tattoo, on her hip not her belly, and she has new blue tattoos near her eye as a result of powder burns during the battle. Jacky aspires to start a shipping business.



#### Chapter 4

Jacky shares entries from the Morning Star's log dated November 22-24, 1805. She relates that she kept a log in the Royal Navy and once she begins a habit she doesn't like to stop it. She also thinks about reading the log to her grandchildren someday and imagines what that will be like.

#### Chapter 5

The journal entry dates are still for the end of November, 1805, just after Jacky left the Enterprise. She talks about trying to find a safe place to put her boat for the night and has named her new fiddle the Lady Gay. This is after a poem with which she is familiar. Jacky talks about some of the rough seas during her sail from Rhode Island to Boston. She also states that she used brown leather polish to color her eyebrow. She pulls into the port of Woods Hole and performs singing and dancing at a tavern to make some money. Many of the songs she learned from an old friend, Gully MacFarland, who owned a great fiddle he named Lady Lenore. She makes her way down the coast playing taverns for money. Jacky tells of how she ran into trouble at one inn. She had sung bawdy songs that evening and then had gone to her room at the tavern. Jacky had noticed that her door didn't lock from the inside, then told herself she was being silly - that she was safe - and had gone to bed. She had awakened in the middle of the night to find the landlord trying to climb in bed with her. Jacky had yelled and the landlord's wife had come into the room and beat him for trying to take advantage of the girl. Jacky had sworn to never stay in a room without an inside lock again and to never sing bawdy songs if she didn't know what the people in town were like.

#### Chapter 6

Back to the present. Jacky dresses like a girl and heads off to see Ezra Pickering, a lawyer. Jacky has lived in Boston before and recognizes many of the people and sites she passes. Jacky and Ezra are old friends. She tells him of her last adventure and that she is wanted for piracy after stealing the British ship, Emerald. Ezra tells Jacky that the money she was given by a book author has paid her tuition at Lawson Peabody School for Young Girls and suggests she hide there until her problem with the British blows over. Jacky returns to Lawson Peabody, where she lived previously, and everyone is thrilled to see her. Jacky remembers the school and feels that she was responsible for burning the school down. However, Ezra tells her the fire (from a previous book in the series) wasn't her fault. Jacky goes to meet the headmistress, Mistress Pimm, so she can come back to the school. Pimm tells Jacky that she is welcome back and sets her expectations for Jacky's behavior. They eat dinner together.

#### Chapter 7

Jacky, Ezra and Jim sail Jacky's small boat across the bay to Amy Trevellyne's house. Along the way Jacky thinks about keeping Jim on and buying lobster traps to earn money. She also remembers getting him to clean up the day before. Jacky is nervous about seeing Amy and remembers the two of them spending time on the beach



together. Amy is shocked to see Jacky and begins to cry. She has been depressed since her best friend left. Amy explains how she was involved with Jacky getting kidnapped. Amy's brother, Randall, comes in and sweeps Jacky off of her feet. He flirts with her and demands a kiss. Jacky thinks about how attractive he is, but tells him she is promised to another. Randall tells her, teasingly, that he doesn't care. Randall and Amy reveal that Randall is home after being expelled for dueling. Jacky, Amy, Randall and Ezra have dinner. Jacky reveals that there may be a budding romance between Amy and Ezra. Jacky pulls out the wanted poster and tells Amy and Randall about her adventures.

## Chapter 8

Jacky buys the traps she wanted and heads to the Pig and Whistle. A place she used to sing. She sees old friends and finds out that Gully MacFarland is looking for her. She remembers tying him drunk to a barrel and giving him to the Royal Navy. Jacky returns to the boat and finds Jim in a pool of blood. He has been beaten to a pulp by two men with a Wanted poster looking for Jacky. In a panic, Jacky brings him to the school for care. Jim tells her he knows who she is, but didn't tell the men. Jacky goes to find the men who did it and discovers she knows them. Beadle and Strunk are the men who kidnapped her in a previous book. Jacky finds them and they come after her. She trips on the cobblestone, twisting her ankle. Just as they catch her, Jacky's rough friends, John Thomas and Smasher McGee come out of the shadows. Jacky leaves them to take care of the kidnappers and leaves. She doesn't care if they are killed by her friends. Jacky decides to stay at the school for safety.

## Chapter 9

Jacky and Jim sail to Amy's to recover. The local girls fall all over Jim and the boys dislike him at first. By the time Jim has recovered, in mid-December, he is liked by all. Christmas comes and they go to sing for the neighbors. Jacky reveals that this is a way to make sure others are doing ok in the winter without shaming them or giving them charity. Jacky exchanges gifts with Amy and her family and they all enjoy each others company.

# Part 1: Chs. 1-9 Analysis

## Chapter 1

Jacky is street smart and war weary. She relates that she grew up in the wharfs of London by the Thames River. She had lived under Blackfriar's Bridge and had been a part of the Rooster Charlie Gang of Naked Orphans. Her experiences have allowed her to understand that Jim is hungry and trying to work for a living. Jacky doesn't want to be taken advantage of, however, and drops the names of some fearsome people who work in Boston Harbor. She threatens Jim and tells him she will have him gutted if he steals her boat.

## Chapter 2



Jacky is a witness to the Battle of Trafalgar, where the British destroyed the American fleet. She is a wanted woman in London and has placed her age at somewhere between 15 and 18. She is engaged to Jaimy, a Lieutenant, but intimates that she is free with her kisses and has enjoyed many male suitors. Jacky seems to be a hard woman, but she shows her soft side as she sheds tears remembering the look in Jaimy's eyes as she sailed away in Spain. It is unclear why Jacky is wanted by the British and how she had been involved in the Battle of Trafalgar.

### Chapter 3

Jacky is a wanted woman and has lived a colorful life. She admits that some boys have seen her with no clothes, but not in a sexual way. She thinks about her tattoo and the new scars on her eye. She also wonders what Andrew Billings and his father will think when they see the wanted poster. Jacky has had nightmares her entire life. The nightmares are so scary she often wakes up those around her with her screaming. Jacky goes to bed thinking of Jaimy.

### Chapter 4

Jacky shows how fanciful and young she is in this chapter. She thinks up a fantasy about her grandchildren with Jaimy, what they will behave like and what she will say to them. Her journal entries relate how sick and hopeless she had been during the storms.

### Chapter 5

Jacky enjoys singing. She offers up the lyrics to many of her songs and shows her understanding of people and humor as she moves from tavern to tavern.

### Chapter 6

Much of the book so far has been Jacky's memories and feelings from a book before this one in the series. Jacky is remembering people she loved and things that happened in the past. Before Jacky can settle into the school she must see Amy Trevelyne, a woman whom Jacky believes betrayed her in another book of the series. However, it is because of Amy's book about Jacky that Jacky has money to stay at the school.

### Chapter 7

Jacky and Amy are clearly best friends. Amy is a cultured young lady who worries about her friend Jacky. The two are able to put the past behind them and resume their friendship. Randall seeks adventure and longs to be part of the war. He seems jealous that Jacky had been able to be a part of the action at Trafalgar and respects her for her involvement.

### Chapter 8

Jacky realizes that she isn't safe as long as there is a price on her head. Now she must not only take care of herself, but Jim too. She feels terrible that Jim had been hurt



because of her. She decides that she must stay at the school if she wants to remain in Boston. Jacky also shows that she is not afraid of violence. She goes looking for the men who beat Jim and she has no remorse that her friends may have killed Beetle and Strunk; in fact, she hopes they did.

## Chapter 9

Jacky is welcomed by Amy's parents with opened arms even though she admits she caused a problem when she visited them last. They visit the neighbors and Jacky reflects on the generosity of her friends. They all give her expensive gifts and she gives them each gifts she carved from whalebone. She gives Randall one carved like a mermaid who looks like Jacky.





## Part 2: Chs. 10-18

### Part 2: Chs. 10-18 Summary

#### Chapter 10

Thirty girls return to the Lawson Peabody school in January, and Jacky reunites with her friends and meets some new people. However, Jacky's nemesis, Clarissa Worthington Howe, is back also. Jacky and Clarissa exchange words and Clarissa heads off to speak with Pimm about Jacky. Clarissa is beautiful and wealthy and very snotty and unkind. She has brought a young slave girl to school with her and Jacky is horrified that she is allowed to have a slave in Massachusetts and at the school. Jacky remembers her last run-in with Clarissa at Amy's family ball. Clarissa convinced Jacky they would be friends and gave Jacky bourbon. Jacky ended up drunk and sick and the two of them got into a fist fight. Jacky still has a half-moon shaped scar on her arm from Clarissa's teeth.

#### Chapter 11

January turns into March, Jacky meets two new girls, Elspeth Goodwin and Hepzibah Van Pelt. Hepzibah is a musician and becomes first violin chair, Jacky is second. Jacky enjoys their musical instruction time. The girls from the school attend church and enjoy looking at all of the boys who come to look at them. There are many Revolution sites to see and Amy shows Jacky where the Boston Massacre happened. Amy tells Jacky that the first Patriot to die in the Massacre was a black man named Crispus Attucks. Jacky receives a visitor and is crazy with excitement when she realizes it is her old friend John Higgins whom she last saw in battle. He has a note for her from Jaimy. His letter tells of his attempt to clear her name and of her crew. He tells her that he can't get the charges against her dropped and he lists who is dead and who is wounded. Jacky begins to cry and Pimm sends Higgins away for the evening. Pimm takes Jacky into her office and tells her that bad things happen, it is God's will.

#### Chapter 12

Jacky writes to Jaimy and tells him that Higgins is now living at the school and helping Mistress Pimm. Jacky thinks about how Clarissa and others are taunting her after watching her cry the day Higgins arrived. Jacky had passed a classroom where Clarissa had been telling another girl that Jacky's mom was a whore who died of a venereal disease. Jacky goes to beat the girl up is pulled away by Higgins who tells her not to fall for Clarissa's behavior. Clarissa had planned to get Jacky kicked out of the school for fighting. Jacky thinks about a party where she met the French ambassador and he recognized her as the pirate wanted by the British. He hadn't turned her in because he hadn't wanted the British to be happy.

#### Chapter 13



The girls at the school spend a busy morning getting ready for a dance party with a group of college boys. Jacky enjoys getting ready with her friends and they talk about what is to take place during the day. Jacky gets ready for the party and remembers Higgins presenting her with a jacket and medal when he returned to Boston. The medal is for her service under Lord Nelson at Trafalgar. Jacky asks Higgins why he chose to work with her at the school and not take a position as a manservant with someone else. He tells her that she provides adventure.

#### Chapter 14

Jacky prepares for bed after the party and remembers how the night had gone. She had danced almost all of her dances with Randall, who is also Clarissa's former fiancé. Clarissa had not been happy. Jacky gets into bed and finds a red petticoat, a symbol of a whore, in her bed. She knows that Clarissa did it. She can hear other girls laughing at her. Jacky leaves the room and goes to the attic where she stayed when she lived at the school before. There she finds Angelique du Toussaint, Clarissa's slave from Martinique. Angelique tells Jacky that she and her family had been kidnapped and sold as slaves when she was seven. She had grown up as Clarissa's playmate and best friend. One day, when the girls had been arguing, they slapped each other's hands. Clarissa had been forced by her parents to slap Angelique's face, in front of the entire household and staff, until Angelique passed out. After that Angelique had been treated as a slave and Clarissa had acted as a master. Angelique tells Jacky that Clarissa's father is kind because he had purchased Angelique's mother and brother even though he didn't need them. She tells Jacky that her family will be hurt if she runs away to freedom.

#### Chapter 15

Jacky and Higgins head out to the town so that Jacky may make a purchase. She sees Wanted posters along the way and asks Higgins why the British government would want her so badly. Higgins tells her that she speaks French and likes adventure, so it is possible the British are afraid she will turn into a spy for the French. Britain and France are currently at war. Jacky says she will never be a spy and Higgins warns her to never say never. Jacky's purchase is not for something to wear...it is for revenge on Clarissa. Jacky goes to the abolitionist society and donates money to their cause. She then pays extra to have Clarissa's name printed in the Richmond, Virginia, paper as a generous supporter of abolition. Clarissa's father takes her out of school for two days and punishes her. When she returns she has it out for Jacky.

#### Chapter 16

Jacky, Amy, Rebecca, Elspeth and Dorthea go off sailing for the day with Jim. They catch lobster and talk about boys. Dorthea loves Jacky's spyglass and the girls go off to buy her one. The girls see some seals and Jacky tells them a bawdy story about a Selkie who got a girl pregnant. Amy is horrified, which makes Jacky tease her even more. As they pull to shore Jacky notices a black boat and assumes the crew is up to something illegal. She shrugs it off and thinks about the boat outing the girls are taking with the school the next day.



## Chapter 17

The girls wake up and get ready to go on a boat outing that Pimm arranged with a Mr. Harrison and his slave, Jerome. Jacky is not a fan of Jerome because he acts like a clown. The girls get into the coaches to begin their journey, but Mistress Pimm is ill and Amy will stay back to take care of her. Jacky thinks it is strange that Pimm is still allowing the girls to go out with Mr. Harrison without a chaperone. Pimm is very strict about allowing the girls to be around men. They arrive and Jacky knows something isn't right. The boat is in a deserted place and Higgins isn't on top of the coach as he should be. Jacky tells Jerome they won't be getting on the boat and Harrison puts a gun in her back. He tells her she will act like nothing is wrong or he will kill Rebecca. They are taken aboard the ship Jacky had seen the day before. It is a slave ship and the girls are to be taken to North Africa where they will be sold in the Arab slave markets. The girls are terrified. However, Clarissa shows her bravery by standing down the captain and spitting on him. The captain, Blackman Bart, knows Clarissa. Her father is one of his best customers and had insulted Bart in public. Bart tells the girls that Pimm, Higgins and Amy are still alive, they were just made sick so they couldn't follow them. Jacky convinces him to spare the serving girls and sell them in the markets. He then kills a man in front of the girls and dumps him in the ocean. Blackman Bart leaves the ship and the girls are all forced into the bottom of the ship.

## Chapter 18

Jacky gives herself over to fear and depression. She then uses some time to think about her circumstances. She divides the girls into three divisions. One led by Dolley, one led by Clarissa and one by her. She puts girls into divisions based on friendship and strength. She figures that Clarissa should be in charge of one because there are some girls who never follow her, Jacky. Clarissa confronts Jacky about who is in charge, but everyone seems to think this new formation will work. Now people have a sense of security and they have something with which to work against their captors. The three division heads meet and come up with a small plan to get the girls settled for the night. Between rats, stench and sickness, they all fall asleep.

## Part 2: Chs. 10-18 Analysis

### Chapter 10

A protagonist is introduced in the form of Clarissa. She is a horrid girl who comes across as rude, snotty and cruel. Jacky shows her politics and moral system when she becomes horrified that Clarissa has brought a slave with her. Jacky can't stop thinking about the slave girl. Jacky also reveals that she used to be a maid at the school and still has affection for the maids there.

### Chapter 11

Pimm tells Jacky that she has seen Jacky have dark, depressed moods since her return. It is clear that Pimm does not want the girls to have emotional displays of any



kind. Jacky apologizes and tells Pimm that it is hard to think about all of the people she has known who have died. Pimm tells her that three of her girls died of influenza the year before Jacky came to the school. She tells Jacky it happens and is God's will. The conversation doesn't seem to have religious overtones; it is Pimm's way of telling Jacky that life goes on even after disaster.

#### Chapter 12

Jacky writes a long letter to Jaimy about what has been going on in her life. As she writes she remembers things about the past months.

#### Chapter 13

Jacky isn't interested in meeting the boys at the college. She is more interested in putting her lieutenant jacket back on and being back at sea. There is some intimation in this chapter, as in Chapter 12, that Higgins is homosexual.

#### Chapter 14

Jacky doesn't understand why Angelique allows herself to be treated as a slave when she could just run away. Angelique points out the simplicity in Jacky's thinking. She explains to Jacky that she is bound to Clarissa by more than just the laws of the state. Angelique is a quiet, thoughtful girl.

#### Chapter 15

Higgins warns Jacky that she could be forced into spying if the people she loved were threatened. This is possibly foreshadowing for future chapters. It is also an interesting parallel with Angelique, who would not choose to be a slave but is forced to do it in order to protect her family. Jacky is smart as a whip. She knows the best way to get revenge on Clarissa is to humiliate her to her family, friends and community. Jacky can also donate to a good cause while getting her revenge.

#### Chapter 16

Jacky and the girls have a fun sense of humor. The girls are drawn to Jacky because she is able to live the life of adventure that they are unable to live. Each of the girls discusses what they want for a husband.

#### Chapter 17

It seems as if Clarissa's father's insult is one of the main reasons the girls have been kidnapped. Captain Bartholomew Simon, Blackman Bart, tells the girls that he will make more money off of them than he will slaving. He also relates that slaving will be outlawed soon so he needs to find a new way to make money. He plans to wreck a ship and tell the world that the girls are dead; that way no one will look for them. As the girls are processing this information, Jacky is taking stock of the ship so she can come up with a plan.



## Chapter 18

Jacky understands the psychological aspects of their predicament. She also knows who in their group is strong and who is weak and aligns them accordingly. Clarissa makes it clear that Jacky will have to fight the slavers and her. Jacky uses her knowledge of ships to help the rest of the girls adjust.



## Section 2: Chs. 19-28

### Section 2: Chs. 19-28 Summary

#### Chapter 19

Jaimy and Clarissa use the time before bed to find a way out of the hold. They try to find where the rats are going when they go below the floor boards. It is possible they can escape that way. The sailors turn shut the hatch and the entire room is pitch black. Clarissa is terrified of the dark and the rats. The girls hold hands while they return to their bunks.

#### Chapter 20

The girls wake up to a shock as the slave Jerome introduces himself as Mister Sin-Kay, one of the slave ship's business partners. Sin-Kay takes out an accounting book, calls roll, and then writes a comment after each girl's name. He threatens Jacky and Clarissa when they are combative toward him. Sin-Kay tells the girls they will either deal with him, Dummy or Nettles. Dummy is a large man who is mentally disabled and Nettles is a little boy. They will be given two meals a day. Dummy is left with the girls and Jacky notices the door is unlocked while he is with them. They all eat oatmeal and drink water. Then they make sure all of the sick girls get food and water too. Jacky gives the girls a pep talk and they decide to watch all of the movements the crew make. The girls practice French and try to have a normal day. Jacky and Clarissa show Dolley the place in the hold where they might be able to break part of the floor away. They plan to use Clarissa's knife to open the boards, then create a disturbance and flee the ship in a lifeboat.

#### Chapter 21

Jacky and the girls get ready for the night. As they lie in the darkness, Jacky tells them what will happen when they reach the slave markets. She also tells them the story of what happened to her after leaving Lawson Peabody the night of the fire. Later, she goes to see Dummy. Jacky knows Dummy from the past and hopes he remembers her too. Dummy's name is Hughie and he remembers Jacky as a girl named Mary. She asks him to be a part of her gang and he agrees. Hughie hates Nettles and Sin-Kay.

#### Chapter 22

Sin-Kay comes to feed the girls and take roll. He inspects their teeth and has a confrontation with Clarissa. Clarissa throws some racist insults at him and he tells her he has made arrangements to purchase Angelique. He also implies that he will abuse the girl. Clarissa shakes with rage. The girls make a plan for some of the other girls to speak up so that Sin-Kay can't single anyone out as being a leader. They decide to go on hunger strike until they get more light, more water and better food. Nettles gets excited when they refuse their food. The girls add Irish dancing to their daily routine.



Jacky allows the two men who bring them a tub to see her bare bottom as a trade for fresh seawater so the girls can bathe. Not all of the girls are happy with her behavior and Constance calls her a hussy. Jacky tells her she will do anything to get the girls out of this situation.

### Chapter 23

John Higgins writes a letter to Jacky's fiancé, Jaimy. In the letter he tells of his suspicion that the only body found in the ocean was Mr. Dobbs. Higgins, Amy and Ezra ask to examine the body and discover Dobbs died of a hit on the head. Mistress Pimm orders the body be cut open and they see there is no water in the lungs, the man did not drown. They put two-and-two together to conclude the girls were taken by a slave trader bound for the North African markets.

### Chapter 24

The girls begin their protest chant the minute the shutters are raised in the morning, hitting the bars with their tin water cups. The Captain Blodgett and Nettles come out of the Captain's quarters. He is angry with Sin-Kay for all of the trouble. Captain barges into the hold where the girls are and orders Sin-Kay to leave. They glare at each other. The Captain promises the girls that if one of them comes forward to tell him who started the rebellion he will give them anything they want. Elspeth wants to go home, so she rats Jacky out. The Captain drags Jacky to the deck and orders her to take her dress off, then ties her to the mast face first. He orders the other girls up to the deck and tells them that if they pull anything again their fate will be the same as Jacky's. Then he rips open her shirt and she can hear the cattails coming toward her for a flogging.

### Chapter 25

After the whipping, Jacky and the girls are brought back into the hold. Jacky is ready to pass out from the pain. She tells Elspeth that she is forgiven because she knows Elspeth has never seen the bad in life before. The sailors give the girls salve for Jacky's back and she asks that Elspeth put it on. The girls pledge to each other that they will stand together for the rest of their time as prisoners. Clarissa grabs Elspeth and tells her that she doesn't forgive her for her treachery. Instead of letting Elspeth go, the Captain gave her a scrap of blue ribbon. Clarissa ties it to Elspeth's hair as a badge of shame.

### Chapter 26

Nettles comes in with a needle and thread from the Captain so Jacky's shirt can be sewn up. Hughie also comes down in a panic to know if his "Mary" is okay. Clarissa comes to Jacky and tells her that during the whipping the captain told Jacky he would stop if she told who else was leading the strike. Clarissa was amazed that Jacky didn't tell and worries she wouldn't have been able to stay so strong. Jacky makes a joke of it and tells Clarissa she would have been strong and to stop doubting herself. Mick and Keefe come to bring the tubs and find Jacky pretending to cry over her whipping. They become angry with the Captain for hurting her and give the girls new water and clean tubs - without getting to see Jacky's rear end.



### Chapter 27

Jaimy writes a letter to Jacky that he will never send. He explains that he headed for America after being unable to convince the British authorities to leave Jacky alone. He arrives to find that Jacky has been kidnapped; he never received Higgins' letter. Jaimy describes how they are trying to find her and who is involved in the search.

### Chapter 28

Jacky, Dolley and Clarissa decide it is time to begin carving up the flooring with the knife. They use the sound of the Irish dancing to cover up the noise made by the scraping of the knife. Elspeth is still being shunned by the rest of the girls and must be made to eat and stand for roll call. Jacky is feeling better and begins telling stories again at night.

## Section 2: Chs. 19-28 Analysis

### Chapter 19

Clarissa's fear is entertaining to Jacky for a few moments, then she takes pity on the other girl and helps her find her bunk.

### Chapter 20

The girls are beginning to show their willingness to come together as a team. Clarissa and Jacky are willing to work together and come up with an escape plan.

### Chapter 21

Jacky's past adventures are serving her well. She is able to help the girls in their current situation and tell them stories to calm them. She also realizes she has an unexpected ally in Hughie. Jacky knows there are some things they won't be able to do alone and that Dummy/Hughie can help them.

### Chapter 22

The girls are horrified and humiliated by their treatment. Clarissa and Dolley show that they were well chosen as leaders. Clarissa seems to use her Southern outlook to try and demean Sin-Kay but it backfires when she realizes he will harm Angelique. The girls try to have a normal day and Jacky provides them all with some privacy for the bathroom.

### Chapter 23

Higgins comments on how stoic Pimm and Amy are and how much he admires their ability to stay calm when all the people they care about are presumed dead. He also





shows his cleverness as more than just a manservant. It is clear that Higgins is an asset to Jacky.

#### Chapter 24

Clearly there is tension between Sin-Kay and Captain Blodgett. It is possible that Clarissa's barbs hit close to the mark and that Sin-Kay is not thought of as an equal partner to the Captain because he is black. Elspeth shows her weakness when she believes that the captain will send her home for telling on the organizer of the girls. Jacky has never been flogged and is terrified she will be flogged now.

#### Chapter 25

The flogging shocks the girls, but Jacky is glad that they see now that they won't be rewarded for turning against each other. The girls stand more solidly together now than they did before. Clarissa also shows that she has loyalty when she refuses to forgive Elspeth.

#### Chapter 26

Clarissa respects Jacky for how she acted during the flogging and worries she won't be the kind of leader that Jacky is. It seems that Jacky is slowly turning members of the crew against the captain and getting them on her side. Suggestions are made, again, that there is a sexual relationship between Nettles and the captain.

#### Chapter 27

Jaimy's love for Jacky and his faith in her shine through in his letter. He has hope that she will be found and come home safe. It is also apparent that the girls from Lawson Peabody come from families that have quite a bit of influence. Everyone is doing what they can to bring the girls home safely.

#### Chapter 28

The girls are now working as a team. All of the time taken to put them into divisions is paying off. They trust the three girls to lead them, especially Jacky.



## Section 2: Chs. 29-35

### Section 2: Chs. 29-35 Summary

#### Chapter 29

Lisette, the French friend of Clarissa, is now carving. She stops and Jacky inspects the hole. It leads to a store room, but isn't wide enough yet. Clarissa sees Jacky looking at a hidden picture of Jaimy and makes fun of her. Lisette tells Jacky that she is smart, but still doesn't understand Clarissa. She explains that Clarissa brought Angelique to school with her to save her from being bred for children. Lisette tells Jacky that her little joke of putting Clarissa's name in the abolitionist paper almost caused Angelique to be sent away and bred for children. Jacky again bares her rear end for fresh water and is again chastised by Constance. The girls talk about catching and eating rats. Jacky talks to Hughie before bed.

#### Chapter 30

Jacky has a dream that a ship, the Constitution, is coming to save them. Before the ship can overtake the Bloodhound the girls are chained together by the neck and thrown overboard.

#### Chapter 31

Jacky, Constance and Dolley meet to move their plan forward. The hole is wide enough for Jacky to discover that it leads to a carpentry room. This is good because it means no one will be entering the room unless there is an emergency. The girls decide to exploit the weaknesses they have seen in the crew to their advantage and to dig on the hole non-stop until it is big enough for them all to get through. Jacky decides to use her story telling time at night to spin stories that will influence the members of the crew who listen through the walls.

#### Chapter 32

Clarissa begins her part of the plan by making fun of Sin-Kay during roll call. She puts pigtails all over her head and acts like a slave. He is not amused and takes away her rations for the day. Jacky warns Clarissa not to go too far. Rebecca goes through the Rat Hole and brings back three battens for Katy. She uses them to make arrows so they can kill rats for food. Jacky thinks they could kill more than rats with them. Jacky sees Keefe walk by and asks him to bring Cookie to the hold. She wants to give him the rats they caught. Cookie agrees to take the four rats, cook two for the girls and keep two for himself.

#### Chapter 33



The girls have stopped putting on their dresses and now only wear their shifts. They had begun this practice so that their clothes would not show dirt from digging the Rat Hole, but now they do it because it is so hot. They are 1/3 of the way to Africa. Sin-Kay now brings a riding crop with him for roll call. The disrespectful attitude of the girls toward him is noted by the rest of the crew who dislike him. He tells the girls they are getting too thin and he will force feed them if they don't eat. They get a rancid layer of grease on their food now. Jacky gives the word not to eat it. They scrape the fat off and leave it to harden. Katy will use the fat to draw the rats out. Jacky dresses like a thief and goes through the Rat Hole. She takes more battens to be made into bows for the girls to use. She takes a bucket and soap and is almost caught by someone coming in the room. Six of the girls eat the cooked rats that Cookie sends that night. Jacky goes into the Rat Hole late at night and tries to open the door from the inside, but can't.

#### Chapter 34

Hughie and Sammy Nettles come to give the girls their food and water. Nettles begins to say disgusting, sexual things to Jacky. She curses him and throws water in his face. This enrages Nettles, but he can't attack Jacky through the bars. Instead he beats up Hughie until the man's face is bloody. Jacky begins to play head games with Mick and Keefe when they come to bring the tubs. She tells them they will be killed by the captain after the girls are sold because the captain can't risk them telling what he has done.

#### Chapter 35

Clarissa really does it this time. She can't stop herself from pushing Sin-Kay over the edge. She knows that he is uncomfortable as a black man among the crew and she goes to great lengths to point out that, underneath all his fancy clothes, he is still just a "nigra." Sin-Kay goes berserk. He opens the gate and grabs Clarissa, then goes up to throw her off the side of the ship. The girls all race out of the hold and up to the deck to stop him. There is mass chaos, then the captain appears. Katy is ordered to stay in the hold and kill anyone who sees the Rat Hole. The captain and Sin-Kay fight, then the captain takes Clarissa and flogs her legs and sends her to the hold. Jacky inspects the carpentry room during the chaos and saves Annie from rape. Jacky enlists Keefe's help to stop Elspeth from killing herself by jumping off of the ship. She gets Constance to pray and minister to her about suicide. Rebecca is the last to be returned to the hold and is pleased that she climbed to the highest part of the mast!

## Section 2: Chs. 29-35 Analysis

#### Chapter 29

More dimensions of Clarissa's character are shown and Jacky is given reason to rethink her conclusions about the girl. Most of the girls understand that Jacky is only showing her bare bottom to the men in order to get them clean water, but Constance accuses Jacky of enjoying it. Elspeth is still not speaking and Jacky tries to take care of both her and Hughie (Dummy).



### Chapter 30

The reader thinks that Jacky's dream is really happening until the last sentence of the chapter where Jacky wakes up.

### Chapter 31

Jacky tells a salacious story that night that upsets Constance's Christian morality. She hears the crew listening in and hopes to sew the seeds of discontent.

### Chapter 32

Jacky uses her connections on the boat to get more food for herself and the girls. She also allows the girls to use their natural talents to help. Rebecca uses her small form to slip into the Rat Hole and Katy uses her know how to fashion arrows and kill rats. Clarissa uses her condescension to anger Sin-Kay and Jacky uses her "entertainment" of telling stories and showing her bare butt to get Keefe and Cookie to work with her. The girls have been taking turns posting themselves around the hold as lookouts. The information they have collected by watching and listening has come in very handy.

### Chapter 33

The girls are learning to do things they wouldn't have done under normal circumstances. Elspeth is still not speaking and seems to have sunk into a deep depression. It is also possible that there is something wrong with Rebecca. She seems to laugh at inappropriate times. Jacky makes a mental note to keep an eye on her. Lissette and Clarissa are surprising allies for Jacky.

### Chapter 34

Jacky hopes that her mind games will turn Mick and Keefe against the captain and Nettles. The girls show their solidarity in support of Jacky that night when they hum over Constance's berating of her.

### Chapter 35

Constance is able to put her faith to work by helping Elspeth overcome her despair. Keefe shows that he is willing to take orders from Jacky when she tells him to drop the girl he is holding and save Elspeth.



## Section 3: Chs. 36-44

### Section 3: Chs. 36-44 Summary

#### Chapter 36

The girls create a hidey-hole for the bows and digging tools. They also create a plan to start digging into the powder room where the gunpowder is kept. After prayers that night Rebecca begins to cry about a ghost she saw in the darkness. The girls plan to play on the superstitions of the crew and get them scared.

#### Chapter 37

Jacky thinks they will be in the magazine powder room shortly and begins to make plans to cut one of the lifeboats loose and prepare the other for their escape. Clarissa has been silent since her run-in with Sin-Kay, but Jacky notices she now carries three feet of cord wrapped around her waist. Jacky sneaks through the Rat Hole and onto the deck that night. She inspects the lifeboat and begins to disassemble the other boat. She hides under a stove when Mick, Caruthers, Cookie and Keefe come into the room she is in. While hiding, Jacky overhears the men talking about possibly being killed by the captain when the job is done, and the ghost Rebecca saw. Keefe tells Caruthers that Jacky isn't so bad; Cookie seems to admire her spirit.

#### Chapter 38

Jaimy writes a letter to Jacky that he will never send. In it he tells her that he and Randall have become friends, and that Randall is wishing he could be at war. Higgins is trying to find out what has happened to the girls and Mistress Pimm was brought up on charges by some of the parents, which were dropped after Higgins testified in court on her behalf.

#### Chapter 39

The girls have made a hole into the magazine and find three bottles of French wine being stored by the captain. Added to the rats and some crackers Jacky had stolen earlier, the girls have a feast. Constance struggles with drinking the wine, then decides that God would want her to drink it. The girls have now added sailing lessons to their day, taught by girls who have sailed before. Katy works on arrows that will be strong enough to kill men. Jacky writes a message in a bottle and asks the girls to write to their families. She plans to put all of the notes in one bottle and drop it in the water. The girls make up a ghost story to tell each other so that the crew will overhear and become frightened. Clarissa tells Jacky that she didn't waste her note on sentiment. Instead she asked her father to wait to hang Captain Bart so she could pack a picnic lunch and be there to watch. That night Jacky begins to tell the story of her time with Hughie in the Rooster Charlie Gang in London.



#### Chapter 40

Clarissa has stopped baiting Sin-Kay when he comes for roll call. She clearly wants to mouth off to him, but the girls forbid her for her own safety. Jacky and Dorothea practice lighting a make shift fuse. Constance asks Sin-Kay for a Bible to raise their spirits. Constance asks if anyone has a verse they would like to hear. Jacky picks a sexually charged verse from the Songs of Solomon. Constance begins to read and cries, calling Jacky mean. Jacky realizes that she has been cruel and apologizes, asking Constance to read a different verse.

#### Chapter 41

Jacky tells the story of her time with the Rooster gang before the girls go to sleep. They enjoy the story and so does Hughie. Before Jacky falls asleep she thinks of Jaimy and tells him that she could take over this ship, but she couldn't love it like she had her other ships. She also realizes that the crew is dangerous and she doesn't know them all.

#### Chapter 42

Jacky doesn't have to strip for the boys today because they are being watched. However, Clarissa gives them a show by giving her shoulders a sponge bath. Jacky finds seaweed in the tub water and decides to use it to scare the crew. Katy tells Jacky about her life on the frontier. She relates that her father died and her uncle raped her when she was thirteen. Two weeks later her mother died from depression and starvation. Katy is afraid she will be sold to a brothel because she isn't a virgin. She tells Jacky that she won't be used and is determined to die on the ship instead of in a brothel. She says that four of the other girls have made this decision also. Clarissa insists on going with Jacky out of the Rat Hole that night and tells her she wants to go next time too.

#### Chapter 43

A ship approaches and Jacky tells the girls what will happen if they are boarded. She is convinced they will be chained together and thrown in the ocean so that the men on board won't be hanged for kidnapping. The girls decide to fight before they allow this to happen. The captain turns the ship and the other ship doesn't give chase. The girls are relieved that they won't have to fight that day. The men have gathered on deck to confront the captain. They want to know why only three men are armed, what he will do about the ghost on ship and if he will kill them in Africa. The captain puts their fears to rest by giving Caruthers a sword. The rest of the crew knows he has been "bought" by the captain, but don't do anything about it. Jacky tells the story of finding a baby, Jesse, in a garbage can and taking care of him.

#### Chapter 44

Jacky and Clarissa go to the deck to disable the lifeboat and plant evidence to blame it on the black ghost. Clarissa tells Jacky that she wants to do something heroic and argues that Jacky is a glory hound. Jacky tells her they can go back to being the best of



enemies when this is all over. Jacky leaves red tinted "footprints" on the boat and is caught by two men as she leaves the lifeboat. They see her dressed in black and think she is the ghost. Jacky and Clarissa race back, but it is too late. Sin-Kay knows they are missing and men are searching the hold. Jacky is half naked and pulls Clarissa on top of her on the floor and begins kissing her. The men find them in this position and think the two women are sexually involved. The men are convinced that nothing other than this is going on and don't find the Rat Hole. Sin-Kay smells soap and Jacky tells the captain that Nettles gave it to them. The captain backhands Nettles and orders the others to not let him near the girls again.

## Section 3: Chs. 36-44 Analysis

### Chapter 36

The plan is speeding up and the girls are learning more about how to trick the crew and rely on themselves.

### Chapter 37

Under the stove Jacky is able to hear how their psychological campaign against the crew is going. She also hears some unflattering things about herself from Carruthers.

### Chapter 38

Jaimy's letters are meant to keep the reader apprised as to what is happening while the girls are gone.

### Chapter 39

Jacky tells the girls they created the fire and brimstone smell of the ghost, in her ghost story, to cover the smell of the girls working with gunpowder. Jacky hopes that their message will be received. The girls are beginning to sow more seeds of superstition within the crew. They are getting good at playacting and grow smarter each day. Jacky writes a letter to Jaimy telling him to have a wonderful life if they never meet again.

### Chapter 40

Jacky doesn't think of herself as a mean person, but realizes that she has been picking on Constance because the girl has been mean to her.

### Chapter 41

Jacky contemplates taking over the ship, but knows that she wouldn't be able to do it.

### Chapter 42



Katy's tale of her rape allows the reader to better understand her quiet and stoic nature. She is willing to die on the ship helping the others escape. The girls she has taught to use the bow and arrows are also ready to die on the ship. It is the first Jacky has heard that not all of the girls come from easy, pampered upbringings. Jacky calls Katy and her friends the "Dianas" after the Greek goddesses. Clarissa is excited about getting to go out on the ship and is anxious to do it again.

#### Chapter 43

It is possible that a mutiny might be beginning to stir among the crew. They confront the captain, but their confrontation is cut short when he bribes their leader. Jacky's tales with the Rooster gang helps the girls grow to like her more.

#### Chapter 44

Jacky shows her resourcefulness when they are almost caught. Clarissa is horrified by what happened, but Jacky is just glad that they weren't discovered trying to escape. Sin-Kay knows they are up to something, but has yet to catch them. The captain is frustrated that he will have to calm down the men on the ship who think there is a ghost on board.





## Section 3: Chs. 45-54

### Section 3: Chs. 45-54 Summary

#### Chapter 45

Jacky, Clarissa and Dolley assess the weather to see if they can make a break for it, but the weather turns bad. Clarissa has been getting teased by the other girls and is miffed at Jacky for it. Jacky continues her story of how she found the baby, Jesse, and how he was allowed to stay with the gang.

#### Chapter 46

Rebecca sits next to Jacky and demands to know how babies are conceived and born. Jacky tells her and the rest of the girls what they want to know. She had been told this information a couple of years earlier and decides to retell the information in the same way she was told. Many of the girls don't believe her, but Jacky swears to them she is telling the truth. There is nothing to work on today, since the girls are just waiting for better weather to make their escape. Constance chooses to tell about Adam and Eve as a supplement to Jacky's reproduction teachings. Jacky tells more about baby Jesse. She had found him a wet nurse and agreed to run messages into Newgate prison for Quakers for the money to pay the nurse. In the story, Charlie tells Jacky that Jesse will not live through the winter because it is too cold. Jacky knows it is true, but steals a blanket for the now healthy baby anyway.

#### Chapter 47

Jacky tells more of her story. The couple from whom she had taken the blanket had lost their child. The day Jacky had stolen the baby blanket was the day of the child's funeral. Jacky and Charlie had figured out how to break into the church so the gang would have a place to stay when it got too cold to be outside. Jacky had taken Jesse and sneaked into the church on Christmas. There she had switched him with the baby Jesus in the Nativity scene wrapped in the couple's baby blanket. During the service, the baby had awakened and the couple had seen that he had their blanket. They had kept Jesse for their own.

#### Chapter 48

The girls can tell that Jacky is sad after telling her story. They sing her songs to cheer her up. In the morning the seas are calm.

#### Chapter 49

The girls go over the plan to escape. It is called Plan A. They go over and over the plan so that it can go off without problems the next day. All of the girls will be in danger, but Clarissa will be in danger alone. The girls are told to put all of their clothes on the next



morning and to eat and drink everything they are given. They will escape after breakfast. Rebecca is feverish, but she says she is just excited. In the middle of the night Jacky leaves through the Rat Hole to check on things at the last minute. Nettles is in the supply room when she returns. Nettles is about to rape Jacky when a rope is put around his neck. Clarissa strangles him to death while Jacky holds him still. They put the body under a shelf. Now the girls must leave in the morning.

#### Chapter 50

The plan is set into motion. Rebecca and Elspeth must be taken care of, Rebecca is ill and Elspeth is still out of her mind. Clarissa begins by asking the captain if she can be hosed down and given soap. The entire crew is collected to watch her bathe. Clarissa is on deck undressing for the crew so that they are distracted enough for the other girls to escape through the hole. When all are ready, Jacky comes on deck. Clarissa runs for the lifeboat and Jacky tells the crew that there is a timed fuse that will blow up the ship. One of the girls is counting out loud; when she gets to 100 the ship will blow. A man comes after her only to be shot in the throat by one of the "Dianas." More men are killed as they try to get to the lifeboat. Jacky is almost to the boat when she is grabbed by Sin-Kay. Hughie takes Sin-Kay off of her, but is shot. Hughie breaks Sin-Kay's back and Jacky shoves the bleeding Hughie into the lifeboat. Captain comes out with two guns and Jacky has to fight him so he can't put out the fuse. Nettles come up on the deck, apparently not dead. Jacky orders the girls to shove off and tells them to pick her up in the water. Jacky dives off the boat just as it explodes. The girls pick her up and they sail away from the wreckage.

#### Chapter 51

Hughie dies on the boat and the girls give him a funeral and toss him over the side. Clarissa is naked, Jacky is bleeding, Rebecca is sick and they are about 2,000 miles from land. The girls look over their rations. Enough water for 3 days. They also teach each other how to work the boat and fish. One of the girls uses a needle and thread to sew up Jacky's leg. The girls hold her down and she faints. Night comes and the girls sing.

#### Chapter 52

After three days at sea, the girls are out of food and water. Jacky's cut is infected and she is beginning to feel feverish. Jacky is in and out of consciousness. Katy catches a fish and Jacky has them pop the eyes out and feed them to Rebecca because they have unsalted water in them. The girls know that drinking salt water will mean death. Jacky tells the girls how to cut and eat the fish and how to eat the liver so they get water and nutrients. She tells them how to cut out her liver and eat it when she dies. Clarissa feeds some of the fish liver to Jacky. Elspeth tells them to cut out her liver because she deserves it. Jacky sits and grabs her knife. She asks Elspeth to kneel and asks her if she is sure she wants to sacrifice herself for her friends. Elspeth says yes. Jackie puts the blade to her chest, then cuts the blue ribbon out of her hair and tells her she is



forgiven and should forgive herself. The girls accept Elspeth back with open arms and Jacky goes back to sleep.

#### Chapter 53

Jacky begins to hallucinate about the people she has known and people who have died. She vaguely remembers being taken onto a British warship and then she goes unconscious again for a long time.

#### Chapter 54

Jacky wakes up in a room on board a ship. The girls are overjoyed that she is awake. Annie, the servant girl from the school, tells her she will head out West for adventure. Constance is glad she is awake. Rebecca is feeling better and learning how to climb the rigging on the ship. Clarissa arrives in Jacky's good blue dress looking beautiful. She tells Jacky that she is glad to see her alive and that she will be giving Angelique her time back (setting her free). Clarissa says she will see if she can free her family too. She leans down and tells Jacky that a part of her still wanted to eat Jacky's liver, kisses her on the forehead, then bounces out of the room. Elspeth comes in and seems to be fine. Another girl, Julia Winslow, comes in with blood on her dress from a man she killed. Jacky reflects on their adventure and knows there are many bad things that the girls will never again talk about.

## Section 3: Chs. 45-54 Analysis

#### Chapter 45

More of Jacky's past life as "Mary" is revealed along with more of the hardships she had to endure as a child.

#### Chapter 46

Jacky's story of little Jesse tells of how hard life is on the street for children in London. It also tells the reader just how Jacky has come to be the hard, adventurous girl she is today. The girls listening to the story have a hard time believing that the world can be so cruel.

#### Chapter 47

Jacky finishes her story. It is a testament to her cunning and her soft heart. It is also an admonishment on the church, who would have turned the baby away if they had known he was from the streets.

#### Chapter 48

The story of Jesse has touched the girls' hearts.



#### Chapter 49

Clarissa shows her strength and her ability to do what needs to be done. She is shocked that she has killed someone, but seems to be at peace with the fact that the deed is done. Jacky tells her they both killed him so that Clarissa will not feel the burden of it alone. Jacky knows it is just a matter of time before his body is discovered.

#### Chapter 50

This is the climax of the book. The pacing has been going faster and the tension really ratchets up in this chapter. The scene is very detailed, fast and fun to read.

#### Chapter 51

Even at sea and scared the girls are working together as a group, each teaching the other the things they need to know. They take care of each other. The girls have come a long way, even burying Hughie without the hysterics they displayed when they were first captured.

#### Chapter 52

Jacky's illness creates more tension in the plot. Elspeth's sacrifice and redemption resolve that subplot.

#### Chapter 53

The people Jacky has known and loved come back to her as she is in the throes of delirium. It seems they are rescued.

#### Chapter 54

All of the girls have made it through their ordeal. They are all stronger for their experience, however. Jacky admits that there are things that have changed the girls forever. Clarissa and Jacky have a bond now, but Clarissa would prefer to still have some of the wall up between the two girls.



## Section 4: Chs. 55-57

### Section 4: Chs. 55-57 Summary

#### Chapter 55

The HMS Juno pulls into New York, en route to Boston, to let the girls off the ship. Sylvie's boyfriend, Henry, arrives to find them alive. He takes Sylvie with him to tell everyone else the girls are alive. Jacky reflects that they just might be married by the end of the night.

#### Chapter 56

Jaimy writes a letter to Jacky explaining how they found out the girls were alive. He writes of seeing Sylvie and Henry and going to the school to inform Higgins and Pimm that the girls are alive. Pimm is stoic as always. Sylvie tells the tale of their adventure and everyone is shocked.

#### Chapter 57

The ship pulls into Boston Harbor and the girls are treated with cheers. Jacky reflects that the captain of the Juno can't wait for them to leave because his ship has been ill disciplined since the girls came on board. Jacky, Clarissa and Dolley wait as all the girls leave the ship. The three disembark with Clarissa second and Jacky last. Jacky begins to cry when she sees Jaimy. She gets to the bottom of the gangplank and is arrested for piracy.

### Section 4: Chs. 55-57 Analysis

#### Chapter 55

The girls would like to have a proper homecoming, so Sylvie and her beau are off to tell everyone they are home and to prepare for their arrival. Jacky is worried that the British captain will turn her in for the reward money.

#### Chapter 56

Jaimy's letter neatly ties up, and speeds up, the process of showing how everyone discovers and reacts to the girls being alive.

#### Chapter 57

The ending is extremely satisfying and all of the girls are happy and changed forever. Finally Jacky is reunited with her Jaimy...almost. She is arrested as the book ends setting the scene for another installment in the series.



# Characters

## Jacky Farber

Jacky Farber is a sixteen year old orphan from London. She is an adventuress and soldier who has recently returned from the Battle of Trafalgar. Jacky is wanted for piracy and is awaiting her fiance, Jaimy, in Boston. She is a tough girl who knows how to take care of herself. However, she is also a soft person with a good heart who does what she must in order to survive.

## Lieutenant James

Jaimy is Jacky's beloved fiance. They see each other for the last time after the Battle of Trafalgar. He reaches Boston to find that she is missing and keeps writing her letters that he will never send. In his letters he tells her what is going on in Boston and how much he misses her.

## Clarissa Worthington Howe

Clarissa Worthington Howe is Jacky's nemesis at Lawson Peabody school. Clarissa is a spoiled rich girl from the South who has a slave named Angelique. Clarissa shows her bravery and cunning during their time in captivity.

## Elsbeth Goodwin

Elsbeth is a new girl at Lawson Peabody. She is one of Jacky's friends. Captivity is too much for Elsbeth and she tells Sin-Kay that Jacky is behind the girls' refusal to eat. Jacky is whipped as a result. Elsbeth sinks into a deep depression and attempts suicide while on the ship.

## Katy Deere

Katy is a Lawson Peabody girl from the frontier. She surprises Jacky when she tells the story of her rape. She is prepared to die on the ship rather than be sold into sexual slavery. Katy makes bows and arrows and trains some of the girls to use them. She catches rats for the girls to eat.



## **Sin-Kay**

Sin-Kay is a black man who is a partner on the slave ship. He doesn't get along with the captain and is Clarissa's enemy. Sin-Kay arranges for Africans to be kidnapped and held on the ships, then sold as slaves in the Americas.

## **Hughie/Dummy**

Hughie works for Sin-Kay on the ship. He has a very low IQ and knows Jacky from their time together in Rooster Charlie's Gang in London. Hughie loves Jacky and helps the girls escape the ship. He is shot by Sin-Kay and dies.

## **Sammy Nettles**

Sammy Nettles is part of the crew and is rumored to be the captain's lover. He is a disgusting boy who is abusive and takes pleasure in saying sexually suggestive things to the girls. Sammy is almost killed by Clarissa when he tries to assault Jacky.

## **Captain Blodgett**

Captain Blodgett is the owner of the slave ship. He is also one of Sin-Kay's partners.

## **Amy and Randall Trevelyne**

Amy and Randall Trevelyne are Jacky's friends in Boston. Amy is also at the school, but is sick and stays home the day the girls are kidnapped. Randall is a joker who loves Jacky.

## **John Higgins**

John Higgins is Jacky's friend and confidant, who becomes an assistant at the school and keeps an eye on Jacky. He is Mistress Pimm's right hand man. He is homosexual.

## **Mistress Pimm**

Mistress Pimm is the head of the school. She is stoic and hates any outward display of emotion.



## Angelique du Toessaint

Angelique is Clarissa's slave who has been with her since they were children. She can't run away now that she is in the North because Clarissa's family has threatened her mother.





# Objects/Places

## Lawson Peabody School for Young Girls

Lawson Peabody is a school for girls located in Boston, Massachusetts. The school is populated by girls from good families who get a good education. Jacky has been at the school before and began her studies there as a maid. She is at the school now in an attempt to hide from the authorities.

## Boston Harbor

Boston Harbor is where Jacky pulls in her boat, the Morningstar. She comes to Boston Harbor to meet up with Jaimy. Once at the harbor she discovers that she is a wanted person and that she has a price on her head.

## The Morningstar

The Morningstar is Jacky's small boat. She plans for the boat to be the first in her future shipping fleet. Jacky had taken the Morningstar out of Trafalgar and had it towed to the US when she was taken on by another ship.

## The Bloodhound

The Bloodhound is the name of the slave ship in which Jacky and the girls are imprisoned. The ship is large and has a large crew. Captain Blodgett is in charge of the ship and Sin-Kay is in charge of the human cargo. Jacky and the girls manage to blow the ship up and it sinks on the way to North Africa.

## The Hold

The Hold is where the girls spend their journey to Africa. It is a dark place that smells. There are rats in the hold and no privacy. The hold is made as a slave cargo hold. There are small berths and chains in the floor and on the walls.

## The Rat Hole

The Rat Hole is the name of the hole the girls create to make their escape. The hole is an actual rat hole they find in the floor. Eventually they widen the hole so that Jacky is able to get through and get them things in the ship. They use the hole to escape on their last day aboard ship.



## **The Chant**

The girls decide to go on a hunger strike. They come up with a chant that they repeat five times in a row. The chant is made to drive Sin-Kay crazy and designed so that the men on board can't tell who is a leader of the group.

## **Jacky's shiv**

Jacky manages to bring her bag onto the ship and get it into the Hold. Inside the bag is her knife. The shiv is what the girls use to widen the Rat Hole so that they can escape.

## **Battle of Trafalgar**

The Battle of Trafalgar happens off of the coast of Spain. The battle is a bloody one and the British are defeated by Napoleon and his French army.

## **Jaimy's Letters**

Throughout the book, Jaimy writes letters to Jacky that he will never send and she will never receive. The letters explain to the reader what is happening in Boston while the girls are gone.



# Themes

## Rising to the Challenge

Rising to the challenge is a major theme in the book. Not only does Jacky have to do what she must to survive, but all of the girls learn to do what they must to make it out of the situation alive.

Jacky has always risen to the challenge. As she relates her story, and that of her time with Rooster Charlie, the reader begins to understand how Jacky has led such a colorful life. The girls at Lawson Peabody don't understand how Jacky can be so ill mannered and have such strange morals and values. However, as the girls get to know her story, they see that she has always had to do what she must to stay alive and keep those around her protected. Jacky has always risen to the challenge and never let herself, or others, down. She can be counted on.

Elspeth's tale is that of a person who does not rise to the challenge. Elspeth can fight like the other girls, or give in. She chooses to give in and her weakness costs her her self-respect and the respect of the girls around her. Elspeth spends the majority of the novel deeply depressed because she has let herself and the others down. In the end she does rise to the challenge when she offers up her liver to save the other girls.

Clarissa is a great example of a person finding their inner strength. Although Clarissa has always been bold, she shows that she can set aside her morals and her upbringing in order to do what needs to be done. She rises to every challenge put in her way and she grows as a woman from the beginning of the book to the end.

Katy is another character who exemplifies the idea that a person can rise to meet the challenges put in their path. She tells the story of being sexually abused by her uncle and of how she ran away. She also does what she must to fight the men and find food for the others.

## Sisterhood

Throughout the book, Jacky refers to many of the girls as "sister," but it isn't until the end of the book that a true sisterhood has actually formed between the girls. Jacky uses sister as a term of solidarity, not of affection. By the end of the story the girls do see each other as sister. The term becomes one of affection. The girls learn to rely on each other and to trust each other. They must get along in order to survive. At first it is difficult to put aside their differences, in fact, some never seem to think of Jacky as an equal. However, the girls grow to respect each other as sisters-in-arms. They learn that they are stronger together than they are apart.



## Survival

Everyone in this story does what they must to survive. Even Sin-Kay can be seen doing what he has to do in order to survive and live a better life than the one set out for him by society. The girls must cast aside their sense of right and wrong in order to live.

Jacky has always had to do what she must to survive. She tells of sneaking messages into Newgate to get money to feed Jesse. Of stealing the blanket of a dead baby to keep him warm. Jacky's story shows that morals are sometimes the province of the wealthy. Poor people, like Jacky, must do what they have to in order to survive. As she is about to be molested by Nettles she considers what the benefit to her would be if she willingly gives him what he wants. There is no judgement of Jacky, she is simply trying to survive.

Clarissa also does what she must to survive. On the surface it seems that she enjoys having a slave, but Lissette tells Jacky that Clarissa had brought Angelique to the school to save her from being given to someone for breeding. Clarissa had learned at a young age that she and Angelique would be punished if she treated the slave like a friend. She had learned the hard way to do what she must to survive. Clarissa is not happy when Jacky pretends they are lovers, but she knows it needed to be done.

Nettles is also a survivor. It is rumored that he is the captain's lover, but that may not be something he has chosen by his free will. Nettles enjoys making sexual remarks toward the girls, so it seems he is heterosexual. His relationship with the captain is one based on an imbalance of power, not of love. Nettles is as much a slave as the girls will be when they reach Africa.



# Style

## Point of View

The story is told from Jacky's point of view and is entirely in the first person. Occasionally the author uses letters written to and from Jaimy and Jacky to shed light on the action that is taking place in Jacky's absence. The majority of Sections 1 and 2 are narration and flashback. Occasionally there are pieces of dialogue, but mainly the first two sections are meant for Jacky to explain how she got to where she is and to set up the plot. The pacing for the first half of the book is slow since most of the action is in the past tense.

## Setting

The story begins as Jacky makes her way to Boston on the Morningstar. There is a brief amount of time spent at the Lawson Peabody school, and then the majority of the action takes place in the Hold of the Bloodhound bound for North Africa. The setting inside the Bloodhound is limited and Jacky discusses the Hold in terms of the Hole, Balcony and Stage. The inside of the hold is described well, but not much attention is given to the sailing on the seas or the condition of the weather and water — probably because the girls can't see out of the boat.

## Language and Meaning

Jacky speaks in British accented English. Her language shows her place in the lower class. However, her language clears up as the book goes on. She mostly speaks to herself in a familiar way and speaks in a more polished way to others. Clarissa's character speaks with a Southern accent and many of the seamen speak Cockney, English. Nautical terms and war terms are used liberally throughout the book. Jacky's language and word choices are clearly more vulgar than the other girls'. The girls from the school show their innocence and breeding in their language - or rather lack of language. The girls are not cognizant of some of the meaning behind the words used by Jacky and the ship's crew.

## Structure

The book is set out into four sections and 57 chapters. Section One introduces Jacky and tells the reader of her past adventures in the series. Section Two sets up the plot and begins the rising action. Section Three is the main body of the book, climax and falling action. Section Four is brief, only three chapters, and gives the book's resolution. It also sets up the next book in the series.



## Quotes

"Boys get to do what they want in this world, and girls do not."  
Chapter 3, p. 19

"Yes, it is, but Massachusetts outlawed slavery only two years ago - and then only by a judge striking that practice down, not by popular vote, you may count on that."  
Chapter 10, p. 84

"I've found that most adventures are better in the telling of than in the living through."  
Chapter 13, p. 110

"Water seeks its own level, at least half the girls would say, and I agree with them."  
Chapter 15, p. 118

"His eyes no longer roll about but have become hooded, secretive, sly."  
Chapter 20, p. 174

"I reflected that once again a bargain had been made, sealed with blood and pain, and that not all that pain was mine."  
Chapter 26, p. 250

"We continue to grow in stature in the crew's eyes, and he continues to be diminished."  
Chapter 33, p. 295

"The flaps come slamming down, and we assemble for Chorus and raise our own voices in song - there in the Hold of the Bloodhound, there in our own captivity, there in our own Babylon."  
Chapter 40, p. 379

"Clarissa Worthington Howe stands there shaking, the end of the garrote still in her hand."  
Chapter 49, p. 470

"I know there will be many accounts of our adventure - but I also know there will be other stories, tales left untold, that will be better left in the dark, dank, and now forever silent belly of the Bloodhound."  
Chapter 54, p. 504

"They may very well not accept anything that their families, their society, or even their own individual fates merely hand to them."  
Chapter 57, p. 513



## Topics for Discussion

Who is Jacky Farber and where did she come from? How did Jacky come to be in Boston Harbor? Why is she there? Why does she need to be in hiding? How did she come to be at the Battle of Trafalgar? Why was she with Rooster Charlie in London?

What is the nature of the relationship between Clarissa and Angelique? How does their relationship begin? Are they friends? What is the defining moment in their lives together? Why does this happen? What does Clarissa take away from the experience? What does Angelique take away from their experience? How do they feel about each other now? What does Jacky not understand about the relationship between Clarissa and Angelique?

Analyze Sin-Kay.

- 1) Why does he work as a slaver?
- 2) What does he hate about Clarissa?
- 3) Does Sin-Kay believe the things Clarissa says about him? Why or why not?

What is the relationship between Captain Blodgett and Sammy Nettles? Is Nettles a sympathetic character? Is he being abused? Why does he abuse others? How is his fate similar to the slaves on the ship? How is it different?

Who is Hughie? How does he come to be on the slave ship? What is he like? How does he know Jacky? Why does he agree to help her? How is Hughie's death foreshadowed in the book?

Elspeth tells on Jacky hoping that she will be sent home.

- 1) Why would Elspeth think that the captain would honor their deal?
- 2) What happens when Elspeth realizes the consequences of what she has done?
- 3) How does Elspeth redeem herself?

Katy is a surprising character in the book. She is a quiet young lady who shows others how to catch food and use a bow and arrow.

- 1) What happens to Katy after her father dies?
- 2) How does this effect her?
- 3) What is Jacky's response to Katy's confession?
- 4) What does Katy decide to do before they reach the slave markets?