

# **Under the Jolly Roger: Being an Account of the Further Nautical Adventures of Jacky Faber Study Guide**

**Under the Jolly Roger: Being an Account of the Further Nautical Adventures of Jacky Faber by L.A. Meyer**

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## Plot Summary

As the story opens, Jacky Faber is coming ashore after having been on the crew of the Pequod. She'd been aboard the Dolphin prior to that and had met a young man, Jaimy Fletcher. She is now in London and planning to meet up with Jaimy, but when she arrives at his house his mother is furious. She talks about Jacky's outrageous behavior and makes it clear she isn't welcome. A maid tells Jacky that Jaimy will be at a racetrack the following day and Jacky plans to meet him there. She goes to her old neighborhood and finds a group of orphans living on the streets where she'd lived as a youngster. She learns where one of her friends is working and rescues the girl from a life of backbreaking labor.

The following day, Jacky dresses as a jockey and goes to the racetrack. There she sees Jaimy with a pretty young girl and jumps to the conclusion that he's in love with someone else. Outside the track, she's mistaken for a boy, captured, and pressed into service aboard the ship, the Wolverine, under the command of a sadistic captain named Abraham Scroggs. Jacky is signed onto the ship's crew despite the fact that she's a girl and she sets out to make the most of it, training the younger crew members and setting up drills to prepare for battle. Jacky's small crew is all that saves the ship at one point.

Scroggs attempts to rape Jacky but is in poor health and dies before he can complete the deed. Jacky hides the fact that the captain is dead for days, formulating a plan. She eventually reveals the death and proposes the ship stop looking the other way when smugglers run their blockade. The crew agrees to follow her and they take four ships as prizes. Jacky keeps one of the ships for herself but turns the others and all the cargo over to the government. She calls on an old friend to captain the Emerald and they operate under legitimate privateer license for a time. The license is eventually revoked and Jacky is taken prisoner.

By that time however, she's gained the trust and loyalty of the entire crew of the Emerald as well as the crew of the Wolverine. She's locked up and the captain who takes her prisoner plans to turn her over to the English government. But then the ship is called into battle and Jacky finds herself fighting with her former shipmates. As the battle is winding down, Jacky finds an opportunity to escape and would have been home free except that she realizes many of the crew will drown if she doesn't return to the sinking ship. She does return though it means she's again a prisoner. However, when the crew have been rescued and taken to safety aboard another ship, the captain who'd captured her, shoves her boat away and tells her he plans to report that she escaped during the battle.



# Chapters 1 through 3

## Chapters 1 through 3 Summary

As the story opens, Jacky Faber is arriving at port at Gravesend aboard the ship named the Dolphin. She's about "twenty-five miles east of the big city," meaning London. Jacky notes that it's 1804 and that she believes she is fifteen years old. She plans to immediately find Jaimy, a young man she's fallen in love with, in London, but finds herself putting off the meeting because she's afraid of what his reception will be. Jacky sets out with her fiddle, named the Lady Lenore, and reflects on her life prior to her arrival in London. She's spent some time in Boston at a "lady school" but notes she didn't fit in. She worries that Jaimy might have changed his mind about her because of this.

Jacky catches a coach and arranges to play her fiddle in return for half the price of her lodging at a "respectable lookin' house." Jaimy's name is James Emerson Fletcher and Jacky daydreams about him while she's having a hot bath.

In chapter two, Jacky is wearing her best riding habit when she arrives in London. She thinks about all the letters she's written Jaimy as she arrives at the Fletcher house. She's met at the door by a maid who invites Jacky in and then goes to get Mrs. Fletcher. Mrs. Fletcher is furious at Jacky's presence, accuses her of being a "opportunistic adventuress," and says Jaimy has become involved with someone else. Jacky is leaving the house when one of the maids leans out a window and says Jaimy will be at Epsom Downs the following afternoon and has just enough time to indicate Jaimy's feelings for Jacky haven't changed before Mrs. Fletcher begins beating the girl and stops the conversation.

Jacky next goes to the neighborhood where she'd grown up. It's a rough area but Jacky takes a room nearby. She then finds a group of street children, explains that she'd been one of them up until two years earlier, and provides the children a meal while she's there. Jacky learns the whereabouts of several of her old friends and hears that Judy Miller has been taken into the service of an old lady. Jacky heads out to find Judy and discovers a book titled "Bloody Jack" which is apparently a story of the adventures of "Jacky Faber, Ship's Boy."

Jacky finds Judy working in horrific conditions. Jacky asks Judy to come to work for her and Judy agrees. Judy insists on calling Jacky "Mistress" and is grateful at her change in circumstances. Jacky stays awake and reads the entire book about herself.

In chapter three, Jacky dresses as a jockey in order to go to the racetrack where she hopes to see Jaimy. Jacky says she won't be allowed into the racetrack unaccompanied by a man if she allows anyone to see she's a woman. Jacky gives Judy some of the money she has along with instructions. If Jacky doesn't return it will mean she's gone with Jaimy. If that happens, Judy is to pack up their belongings and go to Jaimy's house.



At the track, Jacky almost immediately encounters a jockey she knows named Peter Jarvis. Pete allows Jacky to take a horse for a walk around the track to help in her effort to find Jaimy. Jacky finally spots him and sees there's a beautiful young girl at his side. Jaimy had given Jacky a ring to wear in her ear. She removes it and throws it at him. He suddenly realizes it's her and yells for her to come back, but she refuses. As Jacky races away she stumbles on a press-gang in action. Jacky is captured and begins trying to tell them she's a girl but one of them shoves a rag into her mouth, put a sack over her head, and load her onto a cart.

## Chapters 1 through 3 Analysis

There are several references to events in Jacky's life, obviously referring to the various adventures of the previous books in the series. One of those is that Jacky had been attending a ladies' school in Boston and that she hadn't fit in well. Boston had apparently been burning when she'd left the city though she claims that it wasn't her fault, or that it at least wasn't all her fault. There are other references to her racing a horse and to her having been kidnapped.

Jaimy's family is well-to-do and though Jacky is filled with self-confidence with regard to her abilities in most areas, she can't help but note that Jaimy is around girls who are prettier than she.

As Jacky is rescuing Judy from her horrible work conditions, she discovers a little girl "cowering" in a corner. Jacky immediately realizes the child is being abused by the same man who was holding Judy as a worker. Jacky becomes furious and begins beating the man. Jacky shouts out what the man has been up to so that all his neighbors now know the truth but she also knows he may have police as friends and she runs away to keep from being hauled off to jail. Jacky soon encounters a member of the street kids, a girl named Joanie, and tells Joanie the brief facts of the situation. Joanie promises the man will never have another "peaceful day or night." The street kids stick up for each other regardless of their own situations. This loyalty is seen repeatedly throughout the book and is the reason Jacky had gone looking for Judy in the first place. The kids who made it off the streets into lucrative employment always returned to share their earnings in the form of food. The fact that Judy hasn't returned to the gang since she started work is a clue to Jacky that there's something wrong.



# Chapters 4 through 6

## Chapters 4 through 6 Summary

In chapter four, Jacky is dumped onto the deck of a ship and the first person she sees is Muck Cornelius, known in the neighborhood of Jacky's childhood as a corpse stealer. As soon as she is able to speak, Jacky screams out that she's a girl but the small boat that brought them to the ship has already departed. The captain, Abraham Scroggs, sarcastically welcomes Jacky to the Wolverine and says she won't be sent back just because she's a girl. Jacky can see the coast of France and pretends she's going to accept her fate. As soon as her hands are freed of their bonds, she jumps into the water and strikes out for the coast. She knows she can make the swim but then realizes the men from the Wolverine have put a boat in the water to chase her down. Jacky pushes herself but the men in the boat overtake her. One of them uses a hook to catch hold of her pants and they are just about to drag her into the boat when she lashes out, dragging her captor out of the boat and striking out again. She looks back and discovers the one sailor is obviously in distress. Jacky realizes none of them can swim and that the man in the water, who is a sailor named Billy, will drown unless she returns. She drags Billy up to the boat where both are pulled aboard. Back aboard the Wolverine, one of the men notes Jacky's sacrifice to save Billy and says they won't forget it. Captain Scroggs says Jacky's action is desertion and that she could be hanged for it. Jacky says she didn't desert because she isn't a member of the crew. The captain says Jacky is now formally a member and has her name entered on the ship's roster. Jacky says she was a midshipman aboard the Dolphin, a claim supported by a man who'd served on the Dolphin with her.

Jacky is shown to her quarters where she meets the other midshipmen, including a boy about her age named Robin Raeburne. There's a younger boy named Georgie Piggott and two others named Ned Barrows and Tom Wheeler. Jacky immediately takes over as midshipman with the most experience and demands the others follow her orders.

In chapter five, Jaimy writes a letter to Jacky though he admits he doesn't know where to send them. He says he was with his cousin at the racetrack and that she is fond of making it seem they are a couple because she is practicing for the boyfriends she'll certainly have in the coming years. He points out this is another example of how her life might be better if she would simply act appropriately but breaks off.

In chapter six, Jacky wakes to discover Ned and Tom have pushed their mattresses against Jacky's door, apparently in an effort to ensure no one is able to sneak in and attack her during the night. She rises early and reports on the deck for duty. The Wolverine is assigned to man a blockade to keep the French fleet in port and to disrupt smugglers. Jacky encounters John Harper, the man she'd known aboard the Dolphin. He says the Wolverine is a "Hell Ship" and the only saving grace is that Captain Scroggs is deathly ill so that he is often confined to his quarters. John says the crew has been at the edge of mutiny for months but the crew is divided. He says Scroggs always



manages to evade prosecution by the Navy for his outrageous behavior. John says there are a few men aboard he considers completely trustworthy. They are Peter Drake and Joseph Jared.

The captain makes it clear to his first mate, Mr. Pinkham, that he intends to make Jacky his mistress. Jacky can also see the captain is very ill and is suffering greatly with gout. The captain calls for an inspection and Jacky calls her crew together. The captain is furious with everyone and lashes out at one of the men on Jacky's crew. The man needs stitches and Jacky discovers the ship's doctor is incapable of the task, so she sews up the wound.

Jacky eats then gathers her gunnery crew only to find they've never actually fired a cannon and have no idea how to go about a fight. She also learns the captain does not allow practice firing of the cannons. Jacky sets out to do the best she can. She drills the men until they begin to grasp the concept of loading and firing the cannons.

Jacky has quickly come to know another member of the crew, Mr. Pelham, who is often in command of the ship. Jacky tells Mr. Pelham she realizes the situation on the ship but says that's no excuse for the crew to be lax in their duties. Mr. Pelham agrees to let Jacky's young midshipmen take turns on watch in order to learn from their elders, called "sea dads." Jacky encounters John who gives her a knife and scabbard, a gift from Billy for saving his life.

Jacky sets out to make the lives of her midshipmen better. When the servant arrives with their food, she discovers his name is Weisley and that he's rude and uncaring. She demands he go back outside, knock, and serve them properly. It's obvious he's angry but doesn't dare disobey because of her rank.

## Chapters 4 through 6 Analysis

Jacky remembers back to her childhood when she sees Muck Cornelius. She notes that Muck had taken her little sister's body away right after Jacky's mother had also died. Muck had made his living selling corpses and usually stole the bodies he sold. The sight of Muck taking Jacky's little sister away has haunted her for her entire life. Jacky notes that even though she's older now, there's still a part of her that's a scared little girl, kicking and screaming in terror as Muck takes her sister away.

Jacky's sense of honor and duty are seen as soon as she's settled in to her quarters aboard the Wolverine. Once she has been entered as an official member of the ship's crew, she settles in to serve her time and do her work, far above the duty anyone assigns and more than she really has to do. Jacky sees the need to do these things and does so without giving thought to any alternative. Her dedication and attitude soon win her the favor of many of the men on board. She will be beloved by the three midshipmen already aboard, especially Robin and Georgie. This will become important when she eventually takes command of the ship.



Jacky's sense of humor remains intact as she's dealing with her troubles. As she is swimming for France, she notes the captain is going to a great deal of trouble to get her back, but that if he knew how much trouble she is capable of causing, he would be anxious to get rid of her. When she meets Robin for the first time, he is somewhat put out that she's taking over as senior midshipman. Jacky notes that she'd expect Robin to be "delighted by being presented with the close company of what has already proved to be a frolicsome young dame, but he ain't." She goes on to suggest that Robin might just be shy or that it might be that she looks "too ratty" for him to be impressed with her presence.

Jacky overhears a conversation between the first mate, Mr. Pinkham, and Captain Scroggs. It's obvious the captain plans to take Jacky as his mistress but Pinkham says there are problems, including the fact that Jacky is something of a celebrity because of the book that was written about her. Another problem, according to Pinkham, is that a liaison between a captain and a midshipman is prohibited. The captain says it would have already been a done deed if it hadn't been for the severe attack of gout he'd suffered the previous night.





# Chapters 7 through 10

## Chapters 7 through 10 Summary

In chapter seven, Jaimy writes another letter to Jacky. This one is dated September 9, 1804, and is addressed from his home on Brattle Lane. He addresses it to "My dear lost girl." Jaimy says Judy showed up at his mother's home and revealed that Jacky had been sent away by Mrs. Fletcher. Jaimy confronted his mother who said she was doing what she thought was best for Jaimy. During the argument, one of Mrs. Fletcher's servants, a girl named Hattie, is slapped by Mrs. Fletcher and she reveals to Jaimy the stash of letters his mother has intercepted from Jacky. Jaimy is furious and leaves his mother's home, taking both Hattie and Judy with him. Jaimy says he's heard stories of a press-gang in the area on the day Jacky disappeared and he fears she's been taken captive. He says if she had only been less impetuous, they would have been planning their wedding by now.

In chapter eight, Jacky reports for a watch and she proves adept at her job. She notes a light on the shore that seems to be blinking some sort of code and reports it but is told it's often seen and no one pays attention to it anymore. Jacky meets Joseph Jared and notes he is somewhat insolent and seems to mock her. When she asks if he has anything to report, he says it's "a beautiful night." As Jacky is headed back to bed, Jared advises that she be careful, obviously referring to her precarious position with regard to the captain. He also tells her the Wolverine is called "the Werewolf" by some.

In chapter nine, Jacky begins drilling the younger boys on the names of the various sails of the ship. Jacky then returns to drilling her crew on firing the cannons and requests that the other midshipmen in her crew be given regular assignments. At one point, the younger boys are being shown how to calculate position and Jacky makes a mistake in her own calculations, a fact that greatly embarrasses her. There is some laughter until the captain unexpectedly shows up. He is in an ugly temper but then sinks to his knees in obvious pain and leaves the deck.

Later, Jacky encounters some obvious dissension among Muck and his friends. She steps in, swearing to have them lashed if they don't pay her the respect demanded of her rank. They are instantly quiet. While she's on watch, Jacky sees a ship slipping through the line of defense. She knows the rules of the sea would allow the Wolverine to capture the ship but there's no order given to intercept. Jacky wonders why.

In chapter ten, Jacky notes that the captain is very ill and the crew can hear him tossing and crying out. She says everyone aboard the ship hopes he dies. One day Georgie reveals he's been reading the book about Jacky and he hopes he'll someday be as brave as she. Georgie says there are two copies of the book aboard the ship and that everyone who can read has read the book. He says some who can read have read it to those who can't. Jacky assures him that it would be foolish to go into a battle unafraid and that there's always the chance they won't see any action at all.



One day Jacky notes there are times when the ocean is serene and that it seems "God lays His hand upon the waters." She then says, "This ain't one of those days." While Jacky is on watch, she notes there's a sail out of place and rushes to fix it. She sees a rogue wave coming and shouts out a warning. Later, she's chastised by Mr. Pinkham for leaving her post without permission. Robin stands his watch that night but the younger boys are excused because of the weather. Later, Georgie comes to Jacky's room and pleads to sleep with her because he's so afraid. She gives in. As she is trying to reassure him the storm is headed away from them, Georgie says he wants his mother.

## Chapters 7 through 10 Analysis

Jacky is obviously enamored with Joseph Jared though she pretends not to be. Jared, for his part, is obviously worried about Jacky. Since Jacky saw Jaimy at the racetrack, she has vowed to remain single all her life. Jacky is only fifteen but she has been in a great many situations that have matured her beyond her age. That, in conjunction with the attitudes of the time period which would have made her the correct age for marriage, means some other girls her age would already be married. When Jacky goes to bed, she stops in to wake Robin who has the next watch. She notes that he is extremely handsome and says that it must be her night to encounter handsome young men, indicating she thinks Jared is also handsome.



# Chapters 11 through 15

## Chapters 11 through 15 Summary

In chapter eleven, Jacky pushes Georgie out of her bed and assures the others he won't ask to stay in her room again. Ned and Tom torment him about it and Robin tells Jacky everyone else - including Robin - is jealous of Georgie for getting to sleep in the same bed as Jacky. Jacky tells Robin she's decided to spend her life single and Robin realizes Jacky's been hurt by someone. He says that just because that one person wasn't good enough for Jacky doesn't mean there isn't someone else out there who is.

Later that morning, Jacky is punished for having left her post the previous night during the storm, even though she'd left in order to correct something. She's made to sit on the "foretop" until noon and knows it's an extremely light punishment. Jacky is thinking when someone yells out that a gunship is headed toward them. Realizing they are under attack, everyone rushes to man their posts though none of the crews except those commanded by Jacky and Robin have any idea how to go about it. Scroggs comes aboard and seems amazed that the Wolverine is under attack. They are fired upon but the Wolverine is turned the wrong way for Jacky's crew to fire back. Scroggs, seeing those guns as their only hope, orders the ship turned. Robin's guns are fired quickly behind Jacky's. They beat off the attackers and Scroggs calls to Jacky and makes her "acting lieutenant" because of the incompetence of Lieutenant Smythe. Jacky goes to the officers' quarters where she assures them Scroggs' actions were "a sham" and that she'll continue to remain in the midshipmen's berth. Jacky tells Robin he fired off a great shot during the battle and Robin admits it was luck because he didn't take time to aim.

In chapter twelve, the man who was killed during the battle is buried at sea and Mr. Pinkham quietly sends out word the men who were ordered to wear skirts should take them off but keep them handy in case the captain appears on deck. Jacky discovers Peter Drake is a master swordsman and calls on him to teach some members of the crew. Jacky works at it as well. Her days fall into a pattern. Sometimes when neither she nor Robin have watch the two of them will spend time talking together.

In chapter thirteen, Scroggs arrives back on deck and has a man lashed for being the last down from the rigging. Jacky tries to intervene and later helps put salve on the man's back. Scroggs later sends the midshipmen up the ropes with a threat that the last one down will be lashed. Everyone knows it will be Georgie but Jacky stops just before she reaches the deck so it will be her. Jacky is about to be lashed but the men begin to hum, a sign that a mutiny is imminent. Scroggs foregoes the lashing but orders Jacky to his cabin that evening for a "private" punishment. Scroggs then sends the officers of the ship with a message to Commodore Shawcross so none of them can interfere. Mr. Pinkham says he has the captain's log books to prove to the commodore that Scroggs is out of control but both he and Jacky know the commodore can't possibly intervene before Scroggs rapes Jacky. Jacky takes Robin to her room and plans to make love to



him so that if she turns up pregnant she can always argue that the baby belongs to Robin. A seaman arrives ordering Jacky to Scroggs' cabin before they have time to come together.

In the captain's quarters, Jacky is appalled when she begins crying. Then both Jacky and Scroggs hears the dropping of cannon balls above the captain's quarters, another sign the men are considering mutiny. Robin is caught as one of those dropping the cannon balls but even when he's taken to the brig the situation continues. Scroggs is on top of Jacky but has not yet raped her when he suddenly gasps and dies. Jacky's initial thought is to run out and announce the situation but she fears the shaky discipline on the crew will fall apart. She plans to wait until Pinkham and the other officers return to reveal the situation. While she eats the food brought by Scrogg's steward, a professional man named Higgins, she realizes she is now in control of the ship.

In chapter fourteen, Jacky continues the ruse. She goes to visit Robin and he asks her to marry him. Jacky encounters Jared and thanks him for his role in the rolling around of cannon balls as an effort to save her from Scroggs. Jacky realizes she's going to have to take action soon. Though the weather has been cool, she knows Scroggs' body will begin to stink soon. In chapter fifteen, Jacky begins giving orders, pretending she's receiving them from Scroggs. She has the men practice firing the cannons with live powder and continues working with the sword though Peter Drake warns she'll never have the raw power of the men and demonstrates that fact repeatedly.

## Chapters 11 through 15 Analysis

There is some danger associated with Jacky's rise to Lieutenant. First, Jacky will gain the hatred of the crew members who were unable to fire their guns when the Wolverine was attacked because they were shown up by a girl. Though Jacky is owed a debt of gratitude for her actions, she won't get it from those who are ashamed of theirs. Secondly, Jacky immediately thinks about the conversation she heard between Scroggs and Pinkham in which Scroggs said he planned to take Jacky to his bed. Pinkham reminded Scroggs he couldn't fraternize with a midshipman but Jacky knows that will no longer apply once she's a lieutenant. One interesting point about these rules is that women are not used as workers on the ships, let alone promoted to officers so there seems to be no real reason these rules would apply.

Jacky becomes very close to Georgie very quickly and it seems at least partly because of their ages and genders. Georgie is very young and longs for home and his mother. He sees Jacky as a substitute. It's unclear how he came to be on the Wolverine but Jacky knows his mother was probably envisioning a good life for him as he worked his way through the ranks in the Navy. For her part, Jacky is probably feeling maternal toward Georgie because he clings to her. Jacky could become overly protective of Georgie but knows that wouldn't be good for him. When she returns to their room after the first battle, she finds Georgie crying at the horror he'd seen - one crew member's head had been knocked completely off by a cannon ball. Jacky is soothing but firm.



There's a humorous scene in which the man who serves the midshipmen - a horrid man Jacky calls Weasel - crashes into the midshipmen's berth. Jacky might initially think he's bringing food but he stumbles in and she sees that Robin is directly behind him. Robin kicks the Weasel and tells Jacky Weasel had her "drawers" and was charging each of the men a penny "to handle them." Robin also has the bag of pennies and hands both to Jacky. Jacky's first reaction is to tell Robin to kick the Weasel again, and then again. Jacky assures the Weasel she has friends among the crew who will kill him if something along those lines happens again.



# Chapters 16 through 19

## Chapters 16 through 19 Summary

In chapter sixteen, Jacky goes through the captain's quarters and finds a bag filled with gold. She begins to wonder how the captain came into so much money. Jacky finds she can't bear the thought of eating in the cabin where Scrogg's body lies and goes to eat with Robin. Higgins serves them a meal together and Jacky is amazed that he's realized she's spending time with Robin. Robin is furious at the situation but Jacky is afraid his reaction will give away the details if she says Scroggs is dead. Drake provides Jacky a scaled-down rapier and she's moved to tears by his kindness.

In chapter seventeen, Jacky orders that a table be set up on the deck. Jacky sends for several of the men, including Earweg, the man who passes for a surgeon on the ship. Jacky knows everyone is listening as she talks to the men gathered, including Jared and Robin, that she intends to take some of the ships smuggling goods into France as prizes of war. She reminds them doing so will make them rich and then reveals that Scroggs is dead and has been for days. She sends the surgeon to examine the body to ensure there's no foul play. There are some on the crew who rumble at the idea of being commanded by a girl, even with the promise of the prizes they'll be taking. One of those is Muck and Jacky points out he was known in her neighborhood for stealing corpses. Others who were wronged by him jump into a fight and kill Muck. A smuggler's ship is soon sighted and the idea of taking prizes that will be shared among the crew prompts the few who hadn't been on Jacky's side to quickly agree to follow her. Jacky apologizes to Higgins for the state of the cabin because of Scroggs' rotting body but Higgins says he is happy to deal with the mess and sets out to do so. The first ship taken, the Emilie, falls quickly and is carrying among its cargo wine from Jaimy's family. Jacky promises the crew will have wine and the best food from the Emilie but remind the crew the ultimate goal is to sell the wine and gain the money.

In chapter eighteen, Jacky sends Robin to turn the Emilie in to the government though Robin makes it clear he would prefer to remain with Jacky. Jacky knows there may be problems registering the ship and its cargo with the prize court and tells Robin to retain an attorney if he thinks it's necessary. Jacky then turns her attention to the crew of the Emilie. She has them put in the brig and later discovers one of them is a spy.

In chapter nineteen, the crew of the Wolverine spots another smuggler. She is a Dutch ship named the Jan Wemple and her captain doesn't fire a single shot before giving in. The hold is full of dishes and Higgins estimates they are worth a great deal. The crew of the Wolverine spots another smuggler and rush to capture the Heloise as well. This ship is carrying olive oil. John Harper and Seamus Shaughnessy take the Jan Wemple and the Heloise to port with small crews.



## Chapters 16 through 19 Analysis

Jacky begins to depend on Higgins more each day. He knows there will come a time when she's no longer on the ship and he asks if she'll take him with her when that time comes. Jacky points out she may very well be poor and he says he doesn't care because his life with her will at least be "interesting." Higgins has been mainly in the background up to this point but his dedication to Jacky will become more pronounced as the days pass. Jacky comes to depend on him and trusts him to oversee even some of her financial matters later in the story.



# Chapters 20 through 23

## Chapters 20 through 23 Summary

In chapter twenty, Ned alerts Jacky there's another ship sighted. She is French and named L'Emeraude, which Jacky later names Emerald. They take her easily and the captain calls her pirate, prompting Jared to hit her. When they board, Jacky discovers the smell of smoke from one of the cabins and breaks in to find a man burning papers. Jared shoots the man as he is about to shoot Jacky and they discover from the papers that he is a spy. Jacky realizes the importance of the papers. Jacky knows she's soon going to be put off the Wolverine. She also knows there's a chance the government won't recognize the prizes taken by the men of the Wolverine and wants to be sure they get a share of the money. She takes money from the spies aboard the ships and from their captains and shares it with the officers with instructions another bag of money is to be shared among the crew when they arrive in port.

In chapter twenty-one, Robin and the crew that had taken the ships to port return. Robin says he's retained an attorney and believes they'll win. Jacky orders the members of the French crews, who had been held in the brig, released. Jacky sets a festive atmosphere that evening and announces to the men they've earned an additional five pounds - an incredible amount for an ordinary seaman of the time - to be given upon their arrival at port.

In chapter twenty-two, Jaimy writes another letter. He says Judy and Hattie have been hired by a very kind woman and seem happy. He then says that he will be among the crew to go to the Wolverine the following day.

In chapter twenty-three, Jacky is on the deck when she realizes Jaimy is among the landing party which includes the commodore and Captain Trumbull who is going to take over the Wolverine. Jacky answers questions and when Trumbull says she could have "thrown herself" at Captain Scrogg's mercy, the crew rumbles and Jacky explains that Scroggs knew she was a girl and showed no mercy. Jacky says good-bye to the members of the crew and kisses Robin soundly, saying she knows he'll someday find a girl to love. Jacky asks the commodore if she's recognized as a member of the Navy and he says she isn't. With that as a release, she drops over the side of a boat Georgie has waiting and sails off, knowing the commodore's boat lines have been tangled by another crew member so he'll never be able to catch her even if he pursues her. She reaches the Emerald and is helped aboard by Higgins.

## Chapters 20 through 23 Analysis

Jacky sets up an elaborate ruse to make the spy captured from the first ship willing to talk. She has one of the crew members, a man named Ozgood, wail and scream as if he were being beaten. The spy could hear the crying and believes it to be another spy





who has been captured. The first spy becomes willing to talk, believing he'll soon be tortured. In this manner, Jacky emerges with a great deal of important information she would not otherwise have had. When Jacky releases the crew members, she informs the spy of the ruse, gives him a small amount of money and advises him to leave the area with his family as quickly as he can.

Jacky is awaiting the arrival of the commodore - which she knows will end her tenure on the Wolverine - and Higgins begins preparing to go with her. Higgins is the epitome of honor and service. He is also very perfunctory so that he can serve the needs of men and women with equal interest but without personal interest related to the gender. He apparently calls on these attitudes and makes Jacky let him shave her ankles before they are put off the ship.



# Chapters 24 through 31

## Chapters 24 through 31 Summary

In part two, chapter twenty-four, Jacky arrives in port at Brighton with a crew made up of men who wanted only to get back home. Jacky then goes to the Sir Henry Dundas, First Lord of the Admiralty. She has a difficult time gaining access to the man but eventually does and trades the information she's gained from the pirates for a Letter of Marque which will allow her to capture ships attempting to smuggle goods through the English blockade. Jacky knows they gave her the letter because they believe she doesn't have a ship and would never be able to use the letter. Jacky can't find a crew willing to sail for her because she's a girl. She encounters Ozgood who is running from a mob. She comes up with an idea for him to pretend to be captain and he gets into the part, hiring a crew so they manage to sail to Waterford, an Irish port. Jacky then travels by horse to the home of Liam Delaney.

In chapter twenty-five, Jaimy writes a letter to Jacky. He says that once Jacky was off the Wolverine, Jaimy had had words with Robin. He says the men were questioned about their thoughts on letting Jacky lead them. He says Drake and another man stumble through their explanations but that Jared said Jacky was the best commander he'd ever served under. He says all the midshipmen continue to stand up for Jacky and won't allow Jaimy to say anything negative about her. He and Robin come to blows, take up swords, but the captain refuses to let them kill each other. Robin is punished for fighting with a senior officer but Jaimy later thinks about the situation and realizes they have to find a way to get along. He takes brandy to Robin's quarters and the two make up.

In chapter twenty-six, Liam arrives in the house as Jacky is explaining herself to his wife. Liam has two teenage children, a girl named Mairead and a boy named Padraic, as well as younger children, and he and his wife are farmers barely eking out a living. Over his wife's objections, Liam accepts the position as captain of Jacky's ship and Padraic is allowed to go along. The entire family travels with Liam as he's leaving port and Mairead is angry that she's not allowed to go.

In chapter twenty-seven, they set out aboard the Emerald and quickly come to a routine. In chapter twenty-eight, they find a ship and engage in a battle. Padraic is obviously shaken and Jacky takes time to share a Benjamin Franklin quote with him, "Nothing is this world is more exhilarating than being shot at ... and missed." Padraic agrees. They easily capture the ship and there's a woman aboard with a little boy. She becomes hysterical, obviously knowing Jacky on sight and believing her to be the bloodthirsty pirate the stories have made her out to be.

The routine is different now because Jacky's crew has to sell the cargo and ships they capture. Higgins suggests they do so in Harwich.



In chapter twenty-nine, they arrive at Harwich and find the men who had originally owned the cargo. When they accuse Jacky of pirating, she points out they'd sent their cargoes out with men who were deliberately trying to skirt the laws by smuggling and they agree to purchase their own cargo back. The men split into two groups and take turns with a night on the town. Jacky goes out with both groups. In chapter thirty, Higgins reveals Jacky and a group of sailors were thrown out of a tavern at eleven thirty and that she was very drunk.

In chapter thirty-one, the Emerald sets out in search of another prize and has to chase a boat. Jacky believes she sees a small light on the ship but Liam believes it is only a rowboat with a light on it. They change course and soon find the ship. As they are preparing for the battle, Higgins asks Jacky to be careful, saying the men worry about her. When they're aboard, John Reily shouts out that Jacky is injured and she discovers her leg is bleeding profusely. Higgins has Jacky stretched out on the table without her pants when Liam pounds on the door saying he has a "situation." Liam brings in a man who has a great packet of jewels. The man, Monsieur de Mont Blanc, says he was fleeing France to go to England. Jacky says they don't rob innocent private citizens and offer to put him back off on the French coast. He says he won't be received kindly and Jacky offers to give him safe passage in return for half his jewels plus the largest of the emeralds. He says it's an expensive fare but agrees.

## Chapters 24 through 31 Analysis

Mairead is very much like Jacky and the girls are roughly the same age. However, Mairead's parents want her to follow the traditional route open to women of the age - marry and have children, becoming a respectable wife and mother. Mairead hates the thought and sees Jacky's life as a way out of that future.

Jacky is very upset by the reaction of the woman who is hysterical when confronted by Jacky. Jacky seems to believe the truth about her actions - that she always releases prisoners unharmed even when they are spies - will be told. The problem with that is that the captains who are captured by Jacky's crew are mortified that a girl took their ships. The stories of a bloodthirsty pirate who leads a tyrannical crew is an easier tale to tell by these embarrassed seamen, and those stories are being greatly circulated.

While out on the town in Harwich, Jacky flirts outrageously with Padraic. Liam finds out and calls Jacky out about it. He says that he understands she is young but that he won't have her playing with Padraic's emotions. Liam has a little more leeway with Jacky than some members of the crew might because he was her "sea dad" when she was younger. A sea dad is an experienced crewman who teaches a younger member of the crew. That history has a great impact on the reason the relationship between Jacky and Liam works. As a rule, Liam is the boss with all things related to the ship and sailing but Jacky makes business decisions and leads boarding parties.



# Chapters 32 through 38

## Chapters 32 through 38 Summary

In chapter thirty-two, Jacky announces the amount of their take for the six weeks they've been at sea. Each man will receive ninety-one pounds. She knows the large haul was due to a great degree to the jewels. She continues to hold onto the large emerald. In chapter thirty-three, the Emerald arrives in Waterford and Jacky makes arrangements for some repairs to the ship while the men set out to their families or various other pursuits. Jacky wonders that Higgins isn't spending much time away from the boat and tells Liam she believes it's "because he is the way he is," referring to his effeminate nature. Liam says it's actually because he's overtly British is his actions and mannerisms. He says the Irish hate the British for the atrocious British actions. He says during an uprising some six years earlier the British had slaughtered "tens of thousands," and that there were heads displayed on many pikes around the area.

Liam's family is now living in town and Jacky quickly becomes good friends with Mairead. Jacky notes that she sometimes doesn't want to be the owner of a ship and responsible for the lives of so many. Sometimes she simply wants to be a "kid, out on the town with a friend." Though Mairead wants to spend nights aboard the ship with Jacky, Liam won't allow it. Mairead swears she won't return to the farm to marry the boy her family expects her to marry.

Liam's family visits the ship for a final dinner before the Emerald is to put back out to sea. Jacky notes that Mairead, who has pleaded and pouted because she was not allowed to go with her father and brother on the previous voyage, is more at ease and seems to have accepted her situation.

In chapter thirty-four, Jacky and Liam meet with the officers to discuss plans for the coming weeks. Soon after setting sail Jacky sees Jack Sheehan fighting with someone. Jacky rushes to intervene but discovers Jack has discovered a stowaway. Jacky realizes it's Mairead just as Liam arrives. Mairead says she won't return home to marry Loomis and will run away again if Liam tries to make her. Liam asks Arthur McBride if he knew about Mairead being on board. He assures Liam that it's Ian McConnaughey who is in love with Mairead. Ian says he would have prevented Mairead's stowing away if he'd known. Jacky intervenes and manages to calm Liam enough to discuss the situation.

In chapter thirty-five, Mairead is not allowed to go past a certain point on the deck and none of the men are allowed in the area where Mairead is to remain. Jacky remembers back to their leaving port and recalls a woman waving frantically from the dock. She now realizes it was Liam's wife who had discovered Mairead's absence. In chapter thirty-six, the crew finds a Spanish ship and quickly takes her. Mairead joins the boarding party.



In chapter thirty-seven, the Emerald is ashore for a short time and Jacky goes for a ride. She finds a quiet place and takes a nap but is awakened by an old man who calls her Nancy. The encounter bothers Jacky but she can't put her finger on what it is that tweeks at her conscience. In chapter thirty-eight, Jacky encounters the man again the next day. He again calls her Nancy but then says he knows she can't be his daughter Nancy, who is dead. He then says he'd been confused but now knows she is actually Nancy's daughter and, as such, is the old man's granddaughter. He introduces himself as George Henry Alsop and says he was a vicar until he left his post to go in search of Jacky. Jacky is shocked to find the man and is initially cruel, telling him bluntly that her little sister's body was taken by a man who sold corpses. She then asks what he wants and he assures her he doesn't want anything. Jacky later goes to find her grandfather and apologizes.

## Chapters 32 through 38 Analysis

When Mairead is telling Jacky about the man her family expects her to marry, she is filled with sarcasm. She pretends to be introducing Jacky to the boy, Loomis. She says her introduction would begin by telling Loomis Jacky's name and pointing out she is a lady. The next part of the introduction would be, "Miss Faber, I'd like you to meet Loomis. He is an ape." This sense of humor is a great deal of the reason Jacky and Mairead become such good friends. Mairead sees the life of those living in the rural country as being filled with nothing more than farming and families and believes that to be very dull.

At one point Higgins notes Jacky's derogatory remarks about men from other countries and says Jacky should stop talking that way because it seems crass. As Higgins is preparing to point this out to Jacky, he asks that she sit and let him "redo" her hair. Jacky says this is Higgins' way of pointing out that she needs some instruction because she's an "ignorant slug." Jacky accepts the admonitions and realizes Higgins has her best interests at heart.

Jacky learns from Mairead that the children who wanted an education were forced to attend "Hedge Schools." These were loosely grouped children with a teacher who hid behind a hedge in a field with one child watching for anyone who would punish the children and the teacher for holding "class." The British had eliminated regular schools during a period and Mairead said many of the children were so desperate for an education that they agreed to meet under those conditions. Mairead's teacher was a butcher who taught in a bloody apron in case they were discovered. Jacky has not understood the horrors the British executed on those from other countries but is coming to realize the truth is sometimes difficult to accept.



# Chapters 39 through 42

## Chapters 39 through 42 Summary

In chapter thirty-nine, Jacky learns several members of the crew were taken to jail the previous night after a fight. They include McBride, McConnaughey, and Padraic Delaney. Liam's first instinct is to go shoot his way into the jail to rescue his son but Jacky sends Higgins with money in an attempt to buy off the guards. Higgins returns without the boys saying the mother of one of the girls who had been one of the subjects of the argument has insisted the boys stand trial. Jacky has a plan. She finds a Bible and writes instructions beside a particular verse for the boys to be ready to break out the following morning. Jacky's grandfather dons a clerical collar and goes to the jail, telling the boys they should look up that verse and ponder its meaning.

In chapter forty, Jacky and Mairead slip ashore and go to the battlements where there are guns always ready to fire on any ship in the quay. The girls pretend to be drunk but are very noisy and capture the attention of the men manning the battlements. They seem reluctant but share their bottle with the men who drink a lot very quickly. It's laced with opium and the men pass out. Jacky and Mairead then cut the rope to the warning bell so the men can't summon help. They then metal spikes into the powder holes so the guns can't be used. They return safely to the ship to wait. They bring the Emerald in closer to the shore and blast the jail until the boys can get through a hole in the wall. Jacky and Mairead are again ashore helping with the escape. The men aboard the Emerald fire on the town, careful not to hit anything vital or any one. The firing continues to cause chaos and cover for those trying to get back to the ship. The ship casts off and Liam orders those who had been in jail to stand at attention along the deck. As the ship sails out of port, the young sailors are ordered to drop their pants and show their bare rears to the towns people.

In chapter forty-one, Jacky has asked her grandfather to help establish an orphanage in London with the money Jacky has saved. The orphanage will be called the London Home for Little Wanderers. Liam agrees to allow Mairead to work as Mistress of Girls with the understanding that she do as Jacky's grandfather says. In chapter forty-two, Jacky and those who will be involved with the orphanage work out details.

## Chapters 39 through 42 Analysis

As they are running Mairead falls and Jacky is frantic until she realizes Jacky has fallen on purpose a short distance from the ship so that Ian - who had been among those in jail - now has to save Mairead. Jacky realizes it's so that Mairead and Ian, when they are old and telling this story to their grandchildren, will always end the story with Ian rescuing Mairead rather than the other way around.



Jacky makes plans about the orphanage. An important part of those plans is to include only children who want and can be "saved." No child will be forced to remain at the orphanage but if they want to live there they will have to work and be educated. She says there are plenty of "penniless scholars" who can be hired as teachers. The fact that Jacky wants to be sure only those children who are willing to benefit from the opportunity is a statement of her own work ethic. An interesting aspect of this is that Higgins considers it to be an extremely positive move for Jacky. Jacky herself says it's only a means to give back to those children living as she lived. She points it out as her duty because she has some money.





# Chapters 43 through 52

## Chapters 43 through 52 Summary

In part three, chapter forty-three, Jacky visits the property Higgins has purchased for the orphanage on Brideshead Street. Jacky looks forward to returning to sea and says she now has a responsibility to keep an income in order to maintain the orphanage. In chapter forty-four, the crew of the Emerald takes another ship and a woman gives Jacky a copy of a newspaper with an article indicating Jacky is wanted for piracy and has been operating under a false Letter of Marque. Jacky gives the order to leave the area immediately but the wind dies down and leaves them virtually stranded. In chapter forty-five, Jaimy writes a letter to Jacky, confirming there's a reward of two hundred fifty pounds for her capture.

In chapter forty-six, Jacky pledges to go into another line of work if she manages to escape her current predicament but she's soon captured by the Wolverine. Jacky makes the decision not to fire on the Wolverine, both because the men aboard are her friends and because she knows they will be dealt with harshly if they fire on a military ship and then are captured anyway. Jacky agrees to give up on the condition the men are not punished. She says they believed the letter to be real. Her request is granted and she finds herself back aboard the Wolverine, this time as a prisoner forced to watch as Jaimy finishes sinking the Emerald.

In chapter forty-seven, Jaimy comes to visit Jacky in the brig and leaves her the letters he'd written. In chapter forty-eight, Jaimy comes to visit again and the two make up with Jaimy demanding that Jacky never again doubt his love. He pledges to retain an attorney for her once they've reached land. In chapter forty-nine, Jacky begins to look for a way out of her cell. Jaimy reveals that most of the crew from the Emerald are being transferred, saying Captain Trumbull recognizes the level of loyalty the men have for her and fears she might find a way to put herself back in command.

In chapter fifty, Georgie arrives with an invitation from the captain to join the officers for dinner. Jacky manages to have a few minutes alone with Jaimy in his cabin but only a few. At dinner, she is overly cheerful. The meal is not yet over when they receive news they are to join in a battle at Cape Trafalgar. In chapter fifty-one, the course changes in view of the new command. Jacky has managed to get a fork and is twisting it in the rough shape of the key in case she needs to escape. She knows there's a possibility the ship will sink and that she'll drown if she isn't able to get out of the cell. She has the fork operational as a key long before the first shots are fired.

In chapter fifty-two, the Wolverine receives a series of orders including to prepare for battle. Jacky manages to get a moment with Higgins. She gives him the largest of the emeralds taken so long ago from the wealthy passenger, saying Higgins is most likely to live to reach London again. She tells him to sell the jewel, set himself up and give the





rest of the money for upkeep at the orphanage. Jaimy comes to say good-bye in case one or both of them is killed. The guard is also called away, leaving Jacky alone.

Jacky lets herself out of her cage and changes clothes. Jacky goes on the deck and takes over a vacant spot in the fighting. When the battle has wound down, she finds a lifeboat and prepares to shove off, making a run for her freedom. She is well away when she looks back and sees the Wolverine is sinking. She knows men will die for lack of a lifeboat and resolutely returns to the Wolverine. Georgie is handed down to her, his body spattered with blood, and she begins to cry. When they reach the boat that's taking on survivors, Jacky pleads with the captain. She says she won't try to escape again if he'll allow her to remain out of the brig. She says she'll help tend the wounded. But Captain Trumbull says the problem is that the "prisoner escaped during the heat of battle." He then shoves the boat away and gives Jacky her freedom. Jacky heads west and when she allows herself to look back she sees Jaimy at the rail. She signals to him that she's going to Boston.

## Chapters 43 through 52 Analysis

The official reason Jacky's Letter of Marque is terminated is that she failed to report the taking of the Emerald to the government. Jacky can't argue that what she did was wrong and she admits she has no defense. An interesting aspect of this is that Jacky reported the cargoes of four ships to the Commodore when he first boarded the Wolverine but she only turned over three ships. No one ever asked her where that ship had gone.

Jacky learns that Captain Trumbull has Weasel for his personal servant and she suggests he take Higgins on in that spot. Trumbull does so and when Jacky goes for dinner with the officers she notes Higgins' touch on the meal and applauds him for landing on his feet.

As Jacky is being pushed off by Captain Trumbull, he tells her that he'll report she managed to escape during the heat of battle. He then says, "Good-bye Lieutenant Faber." Trumbull is paying Jacky the ultimate compliment by using the Naval title. None of the other officers have been willing to use that title and this indicates that Jacky has won Trumbull's respect.



# Characters

## Jacky Faber

Born Mary Faber, Jacky is a young teenager who is more at home on a ship than anywhere else. Jacky is headstrong but completely loyal. When she is kidnapped and pressed into service aboard the Wolverine, Jacky initially tries to run away. Then she's entered into the ship's log as a member of the crew and her entire attitude changes. Though she faces horrible conditions and no one would have blamed her if she had tried to run away, Jacky remains aboard the ship and gets to work. The men onboard the Wolverine soon realize what kind of person she is and freely give her their respect. They are willing to go to great lengths to protect Jacky. When Captain Scroggs is planning to rape Jacky, the men threaten mutiny though to do so puts their lives in danger. This threat may contribute to the heart attack that is the apparent cause of Scrogg's death. Jacky's personality is seen later when the ship she's on is being attacked. Jacky has a lifeboat and could sail away but knows there are men on the ship who need the lifeboat. She returns though it could mean she's taken to prison and hanged. Jacky could hide out once she's aboard the Wolverine but doesn't. She goes out of her way to ensure she carries her weight and takes over the training and education of several younger and less experienced crew members. Jaimy writes several letters to Jacky and talks about her headstrong attitude, indicating he knows this aspect of her character but loves her anyway.

## Higgins

Higgins serves Captain Scoggs until the captain's death and then goes into service for Jacky. Higgins is very well educated and can handle an array of duties well beyond what would typically be required of him as a servant. Higgins is fiercely loyal to Jacky and she trusts him completely. When Jacky plans to establish an orphanage, she gives the money and instructions to Higgins, giving him the final say in purchasing the property. Higgins is always very organized and honest. He takes items only if they will make Jacky's life better. After the death of Captain Scroggs, Higgins is so grateful for his change in status that he goes above and beyond the call of duty for Jacky. She notes that the captain's quarters are shined and polished by Higgins immediately after Scroggs' death. Higgins takes bounty from the ships captured by Jacky's crew and uses those to outfit her cabin even more elegantly. Higgins' true nature is seen when he attempts to help Jacky conform to what society expects of her. He points out that she should clean up her language, for example. Jacky, though headstrong, listens to Higgins' words because she trusts him. Jacky's affection for Higgins is seen when she gives him her emerald, telling him to set himself up and to use the rest to keep the orphanage afloat for the time being.



## Jaimy Fletcher

The young man who is in love with Jacky, he is from a well-to-do family and met Jacky aboard a ship. Jaimy is loyal to Jacky despite the fact that she's so headstrong. When Jaimy learns his mother was overly rude to Jacky, he packs up and leaves home though it means leaving his family's fortune behind.

## Georgie Piggott

The youngest of the midshipmen when Jacky arrives aboard the Wolverine, Georgie is afraid on the night of a storm and pleads to sleep with Jacky. Georgie is afraid he won't be brave once fighting starts and he is shocked by the death he sees during the first battle. Georgie is injured during the final battle of the book and his fate is not known though the injury seems serious.

## Robin Raeburne

The young man who is senior midshipman until Jacky's arrival, he stands up to Captain Scroggs when the captain plans to rape Jacky. Robin pleads with Jacky to marry him and when she is about to leave the Wolverine she kisses him goodbye.

## Joseph Jared

A member of the crew of the Wolverine, he is almost insolent toward Jacky but she notes his presence and is obviously enamored of him. When Jacky breaks into a room on a smuggler's ship to investigate the smell of smoke, a spy points a gun at her and is about to fire but Jared kills the man.

## Captain Abraham Scroggs

The captain of the Wolverine until his death, he is a cruel man who rules between bouts of horrible illness. His rulings aboard his ship are not questioned because he is so cruel but there is talk of mutiny before his death. Captain Scroggs dies while trying to rape Jacky, apparently of natural causes.

## Liam Delaney

This is the man who served as Jacky's "sea dad" when she was very young on another ship and who takes over the duties as captain of the Emerald after Jacky takes that ship as a prize. Liam is stern but fair. He treats Jacky with deference because she owns the boat and he respects her abilities at sea but he also treats her more familiarly than most because of their history aboard another ship.



## **Mairead Delaney**

The daughter of Liam, Mairead is about Jacky's age and stows away aboard the Emerald rather than facing marriage to a young man she doesn't love. She is adventurous and eventually agrees to live in London as the head of the Home for Little Wanderers Jacky sets up.

## **Captain Thumbull**

This is the captain who takes over command of the Wolverine when Jacky is relieved. He is also the man who orders the Emerald destroyed after Jacky's Letter of Marque is revoked and her crew is taken. He is also the person who sets Jacky free, saying he'll report she'd escaped during the heat of battle. He refers to her as "Lieutenant," a sign of his respect for her.



## Objects/Places

### **The Dolphin**

This is the ship Jacky arrives on as the story opens.

### **Epsom Downs**

This is the racetrack where Jaimy is with his cousin when Jacky sees him and assumes he has a girlfriend.

### **Bloody Jack**

This is the name of the book written about Jacky by her friend, Amy Trevellyne.

### **Wolverine**

This is the name of the ship under Captain Scroggs' command.

### **The Emerald**

This is the ship Jacky takes as a prize and commands until it's taken back by the navy.

### **The Emilie**

This is the first ship Jacky and the crew of the Wolverine take as prizes.

### **The Jan Wemple and the Heloise**

These are the second and third ships Jacky and the crew of the Wolverine take as prizes.

### **Waterford**

This is where Jacky sails with the Emerald, apparently under Ozgood's command though he is actually taking orders from her.



## **Letter of Marque**

This is a letter that allows Jacky and her ship to take smugglers as prizes.

## **London Home for Little Wanderers**

This is the name Jacky chooses for her orphanage.



# Themes

## Doing what's right

Jacky believes in doing what's right and that becomes a major theme in the book because her acts greatly impact the flow of the action. This is seen very early in the story when Jacky escapes the ship, *Wolverine*. Some sailors in a small craft catch up with her but she fights back and pulls one of them into the water where he is about to drown. When she realizes he's going to die and that she's the only one able to save him, she goes back and pulls him out of the water. This results in her being caught but it also results in a burgeoning devotion by the members of the crew. This is seen again at the end of the book. Jacky is being taken back to England to face charges of pirating but finds an opportunity to escape and takes it. However, she looks back at the *Wolverine* and sees it's sinking. She knows some of the men will die because she has one of the lifeboats, so she returns to the *Wolverine* and helps pick up survivors. Again, her sense of duty pays off and the captain sets her free. Another important example of this is seen when Jacky is listed on the crew of the *Wolverine* during her first time on the boat. She could easily have hidden herself away but instead set out to do her best with her job on the ship. She drills her men so they understand how to handle the canons and when the *Wolverine* is in a fight, Jacky's crew is the only group able to defend the ship.

## Giving back

Jacky grew up on the streets of London. She refers several times to her childhood on Cheapside and when she's in town with time on her hands, she knows where to go to find the children who are living on the streets. Jacky goes there and gives the children a meal. She then looks up an old friend and when she discovers this friend is living in abject poverty with the constant threat of violence, she takes the girl in, providing a safe place, food, and clothes. A larger example of this theme occurs when Jacky collects a great deal of money as her share of the cargoes from the smugglers captured by the crews of the *Wolverine* and the *Emerald*. Jacky arranges payment to establish an orphanage with her money as a way of getting at least some of the youngsters in London off the streets.

## The Quest for Adventure

The quest for adventure remains an important theme throughout the book though Jacky's initial adventure of the book - being taken aboard the *Wolverine* - is an accident on her part. But once she's there and feels bound by duty to remain on the ship, Jacky begins preparing for adventure. She expects they may be attacked and prepares her crew. She pays attention to the smugglers and, as soon as she's in command, takes four ships as prizes. She knows the Navy won't allow her to remain aboard the



Wolverine, let alone remain in charge, so she prepares for her eventual eviction from that boat by setting up the Emerald as her own. Jacky isn't the only one who seeks adventure. When Mairead hires Liam as her new captain, Liam's oldest son pleads to go along. Many of the young men aboard the ships are anxious for adventure and their desires on this front are the reason many of them have joined the crews of various ships. Mairead is desperate for some adventure of her own and stows away aboard the Emerald in an effort to find it, despite the fact she knows her father will be furious. When the Emerald takes yet another prize on the open sea, Jacky leads the boarding party and turns to discover Mairead has come aboard as well. As the story comes to an end, Jacky signals to Jaimy that she's headed for Boston, sailing a small craft on her own. Jacky has already been on adventures as seen in the opening pages of the book in which she indicates she'd been aboard another ship, the Dolphin. The book is also based on her various adventures.





# Style

## Point of View

With only a few exceptions, the story is written in the first person from Jacky's perspective. These exceptions appear in the form of letters written by Jaimy. As the letters begin, he admits that he doesn't know where he should send them or whether Jacky will ever read them, but he does later give them to her. It's through these letters that the reader learns Jaimy had been at the races with his cousin rather than a new girlfriend, as Jacky believed. The reader is privy to this information though Jacky is not until near the end of the book. The use of first person means the reader has to be wary of the fact that Jacky is telling everything from her own point of view. This means the information could be skewed to suit her own purposes. An example of this is seen in the opening pages of the book when Jacky talks about the fact that she left Boston "burning merrily." Jacky then says that it "wasn't all my fault, either, no matter what anyone tells you." This indicates there are some people who believe it was her fault. The fact that this is a fictional story makes it less likely that the first person account will be skewed. The use of first person means the reader learns of events only when Jacky learns of them. For example, when Jacky is about to be raped by Captain Scroggs, she doesn't know the crew is conspiring to save her until she hears the cannonball being dropped on the deck of the ship.

## Setting

The story is set in England in 1805. There are several specific settings in the book, including London and the nearby countryside, but the majority of the book is set on one of two ships off the English coast. The time setting is outlined by several events and by ship-to-ship communiqués just prior to a major battle. Two of the important settings are the Wolverine and the Emerald. Jacky spends time aboard both these ships over the course of the story. The Wolverine is initially a sinister setting with Jacky and the rest of the crew at the mercy of the vile Captain Scroggs. The attitude about that setting changes when the captain dies and Jacky takes over command. A great deal of that change is because Jacky is no longer in danger from the captain but more of it occurs because Jacky demands the ship be kept in top-notch condition and the men, under Jacky's command, take pride in the ship. Jacky notes the captain's quarters gleam with Higgins' care after the captain's death. The second ship, the Emerald, is claimed by Jacky and her love for the ship translates to a very positive setting. There are many minor settings, including several taverns. In some of these, Jacky performs for money. These are described only to a minor degree but the lack of description should not be a problem for most readers. The overall settings and many of the events are real which lends a level of credibility to the story that might not otherwise exist.



## Language and Meaning

The story is written in an informal style. The action flows quickly so the reader remains engaged throughout the book. The majority of the book is presented in first person from the perspective of Jacky Faber. She has a very relaxed attitude with regard to speech and uses words such as "ain't" throughout the story. Jackie was educated at a posh girls' school which means she knows how to speak properly and she does so when it suits her. The story is set in London and there is a great deal of dialogue apparently meant to mimic the accents and speech habits of the "Cheapside" London inhabitants of the time. The dialogue of other characters seems to appropriately reflect how those characters might be expected to speak. For example, Jaimy's mother speaks properly, as does Higgins. The story is filled with nautical terms. The average reader will not know whether these terms and phrases are being used correctly and will not understand the details of what's occurring. This is acceptable. The terms and phrases are being used to preserve the tone of the book and the reader who doesn't understand every phrase will nevertheless be able to follow the basic storyline. The overall tone of the story is upbeat and filled with a sense of adventure. Jacky's tendency to view every event as an adventure tends to override the suspense and darker aspects of the book. This is clearly seen in the battle scenes and in the scene in which she is about to be raped.

## Structure

The book is divided into three parts and fifty-two chapters of widely varying lengths. For example, while many of the chapters are more than five or six pages in length, chapter five is less than two. Chapter five is a letter from Jaimy to Jacky though he admits he might not be able to ever send it to her. Part one consists of chapters one through twenty-three. During these chapters, Jacky is abducted and taken aboard the *Wolverine* where she becomes a vital member of the crew and takes over the ship when the wicked captain dies. Part two picks up with Jacky's arrival in port with the *Emerald*. The second part continues through Jacky's adventures aboard the *Emerald* through the first trips. Jacky's return to port brings an end to the second section. The third section begins with Jacky's visit to the property she's purchased for an orphanage and goes through the end of the book, her escape from the Navy with the help of Captain Trumbull. The story flows roughly in chronological order with historical references through flashbacks, conversations and memories. For example, Mairead tells Jacky about the education of the Irish children, presenting that information through conversation. When Jacky is brought face-to-face with Muck for the first time, she thinks about the time she'd seen him as a child, taking her dead baby sister away.



## Quotes

"Looking at my toes sticking up at the other end, I reflect that my toenails could use a bit of a trim so I haul the right foot up and start gnawing 'em off all neat and trim with my teeth" (Chapter 1).

"It has been two days since I got here and at least half the crew knows my name and who I am. I think I can count some as my friends and that is good" (Chapter 6).

"We can hear him thrashing about in his cabin, groaning and cursing everything about him. Every soul on this ship hopes with all his heart that he dies of this affliction, and soon" (Chapter 10).

"It grows louder and I realize that it is the men, or most of them anyway, giving the time-honored warning to a captain that mutiny is imminent if he doesn't change his ways" (Chapter 13).

"With swords, you go at each other for a while, and when blood is drawn, honor is satisfied. Then everyone goes off to have a drink and brag about how brave they were, with maybe a saucy scar to show for it" (Chapter 15).

"I look at my still-attached sword arm with a certain fondness and decide to listen to what he has to say" (Chapter 15).

"I reload and try again, trying to hold the gun steady as I sight across the barrel, and this time I get one, shattering it off into the ocean. The fact that it was not the one I was aiming at does not diminish my pleasure in seeing it go" (Chapter 18).

"I think what is contained in those papers is nothing less than the early plans for Napoleon's invasion of Britain" (Chapter 24).

"When you left, you might have thought that I was calm and collected on the deck of the Wolverine, but, oh no, far from it, as your Bloody Mister Midshipman Bloody Robin Bloody Raeburne soon found out" (Chapter 25).

"Mairead and I lose no time in becoming fast friends in the short time we have been here together in Waterford - it is natural, after all, as we are of the same age and temperament, and sometimes I don't want to be the Owner of a Fine Ship or a Lieutenant in the Royal Navy or a Pirate Queen, La Belle Fille sand Merci. Sometimes I just want to be a kid, out on the town with a friend" (Chapter 33).

"The good men of the town, and yes, some women, too, are astounded to be presented with the sight of ten bare Irish bums pointed their way as a parting salute. And now, above the row of white bottoms and upon a raised hatch cover, are two girls, one with sandy hair and one with red, each with a hand on the other's shoulder, dancing a demented Irish jig" (Chapter 40).



"My plan, of course, is to fabricate a key, then ask the Marine to step outside while I use the pot, open the cell door, strip to my drawers, and bolt out the open door of the hold and over the side and swim for the French coast, just like I did that first day on the Wolverine" (Chapter 49).



## Topics for Discussion

Describe Jacky. What kind of character is she? What are her strengths? What are her weaknesses? Is she believable? Support your answers with examples from the story.

Describe how Jacky comes to be aboard the Wolverine. What is her attitude when she's taken aboard? How does that attitude change? Why does it change? Is her attitude with regard to duty admirable? Is it believable?

How does Jacky meet Higgins? What kind of character is he? Describe his strengths and weaknesses. What is his role in Jacky's life? What is his role in the story?

Compare Jacky as a captain to Abraham Scroggs. What are their attitudes about ruling their crews? Which is more successful? Why?

Why does Jacky establish an orphanage? What is her attitude about the children who are living on the street and why do you believe she has this attitude? What does it say about Jacky's character that establishing the orphanage is one of the first things she does when she had some money?

Describe Jacky's relationship with Miread. How are the two girls similar? How are they different? Who takes on the role of leader whenever the two girls are together? Why? Has Jacky's past played a role in making her the kind of person she is? Has Miread's past played the same role?

What is the most important setting of the book? Why? What is the most important theme? Why?