

# SET YOUR SAILS

## CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS

**Johnny McEwan** – our young protagonist. A sailor from New York. We view the events of the whole story from his perspective, even when he is not an active participant. He is in love with Sally Brown and believes that going forth to seek his fortune as a sailor will earn him the living he needs to return to his love where they can peacefully live out their lives together. Wants to do the right thing. Naïve, but matures as the story progresses. A lover, not a fighter. Pressganged into being a rigger aboard *The Widow's Lament*.

**Sally Brown** – Johnny's beloved. A laundress in Shinbone Alley, New York. Unassumingly pretty. She loves Johnny, but has not made it known. Shy when it comes to flirting, but will otherwise speak her mind. Remains faithful to the idea of the future she hopes to have with Johnny upon his return.

**Robert "Bob" Rowland** – experienced veteran sailor. He is nearly to an age of retiring and is always willing to share advice with younger sailors, including Johnny, to whom he is a sort of father figure.

**Captain Dunham, aka "Captain Doom"** – a much-feared pirate captain. Ruthless, and heavy-handed to his own detriment. His love of gold and power has turned him into a tyrant, though his reign will be short-lived.

**Mary Killigrew** – a rigger. Born in Yorkshire, she felt that running away to the sea to escape the expectation of marriage was her only option as a queer woman who wanted freedom from society's shackles. Unapologetic, she has learned to always stand for what she believes in, even if it's dangerous. She's unafraid of hard work, speaking her mind, and proving herself equal. She's also the happenstance leader of a mutiny against Captain Dunham, after which she is elected new captain.

**Bridget Bailey** – a striker. An Irish lass who found herself signed on to a pirate vessel by sheer fortune/misfortune. When her father's ship was attacked, she begged to sign on so her life would be spared. When the crew realized she was a musician, they let her sign on to apprentice to their aging shantyman, Webb. She is a hard worker and would rather keep her head down than be noticed (for good or ill). Also takes over rigging with Johnny when Mary ascends to the captainship.

**Abraham Webb** – an old shantyman. Wise old Scot. His skill as a shanty singer

has always made him an invaluable part of any crew – whether legitimate or pirate. He has a good memory and an extensive repertoire. Takes Bridget under his wing. Was likely strong and rugged in his youth and lived for the hunt. With his age, he is probably on his last great voyage.

**Jim** – a young cabin boy. Picked up near London when he is 10 years old, he has sailed under Captain Dunham for over two years. Already an enterprising lad, he recognized that he had no future in his hometown's slums and thought he could work his way up by starting as a cabin boy. Does the many menial tasks befitting his low status aboard ship, but is observant and insightful.

**Henry Bishop** – the first mate. He was closest to Captain Dunham before his tyrannical break and tries to be a voice of reason. Frequently on the verge of snapping due to the stress of keeping up with Capt. Doom's unreasonable requests, but he values the money so he sticks with it. The only real argument he ever has with Doom is when his share of treasure is at risk. A loveable and overworked cad.

**Christopher Valentine** – the quartermaster. Like Bishop, he was in Dunham's inner circle when they all began their days of piracy. Frequently has the same motivations as Bishop, but with a cooler head. Keeps calm and does well under fire. Would make a good leader, but has no desire to lead. Looks out for number 1, without being unkind about it.

**Matthew Clerk** – a gunner. A cocky, Cockney rebel. Always looking out for the next best thing. Good-looking, a bit of a playboy. Careless and carefree. Charming and he knows it. Learned gunnery because it was the role where he thought he looked the best and could show off to the ladies in various ports. A bit of a non-conformist, perhaps even devil's advocate. Good at his core, but thoroughly enjoys playing with fire (in all senses of the phrase).

**Hugh Corby** – the boatswain. Dependable Australian who always means well, but is easily distracted. Part of a trio (with Jarman and Ambrose) who try to keep the mood onboard light.

**Francis Frye** – the cook. A Northern Englishman who loves his food. He is a bit bumbling (a bit goofy, even!), but his skill is valuable. Has lots of heart.

**Stephen Ambrose** – the scullion. Part of a trio (with Corby and Jarman) who try to keep the mood onboard light. A Scot who likes to ferret things away for himself for later (food, coins, etc.). Not a true menace, but fueled by his compulsions.

**George Oswyn** – the carpenter/surgeon. Pulling double duty on the ship, he repairs damages to both ship and crew. Unafraid of using his tools, but doesn't love bloodshed. Prefers not to contribute to battle when he knows the work it will

be for him later. Tightly wound and put upon.

**William Jarman** – a striker. Part of a trio (with Corby and Ambrose) who try to keep the mood onboard light. He has dreamt of being a pirate his whole life, ever since he heard the tales of their adventures as a child. Even once cursed, he sometimes smiles with giddy incredulity – he can't believe this is his real life!

**Nicholas Dempsey** – a deck swab. The lowest status aboard ship, with the exception of the cabin boy, perhaps. He keeps himself apart from the crew at most times. A bit afraid of getting too close to anyone in case they learn his secret. Keeps his head down and prefers to go unnoticed, since his recognition has always led to ridicule for his attraction to other men. Learns to open up, and gains a special kinship with Bridget after they save the crew from Sirens.

**The Sea Hag** – queen of the seas. A larger than life personality. A powerful ocean goddess – both beautiful and terrifying. Perceives herself to be magnanimous and benevolent – after all, she *does* give second chances. Stormy and capricious, her mood can change on a dime.

**Patrick Fitzwarren** – old Irish miner. He's tired of working hard! He's lived a lot of life and is still looking for "the big one" that will mean an end to his toiling. Goofy, a bit of a flirt. Is of two minds when it comes to issues of integrity – his shoulder angel and devil are constantly bickering.

**Nancy Blair** – Australian innkeeper. Fun, boisterous, coquettish. She teases and cajoles. Knows that everything is worth something to somebody and never does anything for free.

**Alice** – Part of a trio of sailors' sweethearts who lament having to wait for their return, she is pining for Jamie. Also doubles as one of the sirens who entice and enchant sailors through their beautiful, magical singing. Also a lively barmaid at the Golden Heart Inn.

**Joan** – Part of a trio of sailors' sweethearts who lament having to wait for their return, she is pining for Danny. Also doubles as one of the sirens who entice and enchant sailors through their beautiful, magical singing. Also a lively barmaid at the Golden Heart Inn.

**Lucy** – Part of a trio of sailors' sweethearts who lament having to wait for their return, she is pining for Billy. Also doubles as one of the sirens who entice and enchant sailors through their beautiful, magical singing. Also a lively barmaid at the Golden Heart Inn.