

Gingerbeard  
Episode One: Revenge

An Animated Comedy  
by  
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1 INT. ST. SCABBARD'S SCHOOL THEATER - EVENING

1

JENNY TEACH (12) stands proudly on the prow of her ship, the illustrious Pelican's Wake, the waves of The Sea Of Sea-Monsters lapping at its gunwales.

Well, the blue paper standing in for the waves...

Cardboard sword in one hand, fake hook in the other, she is not just playing the role of Captain Julius Jessell in the school's seventh grade production of the teacher-penned A Pirate For All Seasons...

*...She is Captain Julius Jessell.*

The Pelican's Wake trembles below her, its cardboard prow squirming as Jenny tries to keep her balance. Time for the big finale...

Gazing out into the AUDIENCE with her un-eyepatched eye...

JENNY

You'll never take me alive, you lap-dog of Neptune!

The audience of parents is unmoved by the onstage theatrics.

All but one.

Sitting transfixed, front row center, is the fearsome pirate leader BLACKBEARD (42), breathtakingly hirsute and clad in his usual black pirate garb. Blackbeard is Edward Teach, Teach Senior. He follows his daughter's every word...

BLACKBEARD

Yeah! You get him m'girl!

Blackbeard stands, eager to fight the monster himself, but is restrained by MARY TEACH (36) sitting next to him, prim and proper, looking every inch the sixteenth century housewife and pirate spouse that she is.

MARY

Sit down Eddie. The people behind can't see through your hat. Let the girl do her thing.

Jenny's 'lap-dog' challenge is the cue for JOHN ASHE (12) to enter stage left, papier-mache sea-dragon head perched precariously on his own.

BLACKBEARD (O.S.)

Boooo!

ASHE  
 RAWR! I'm here to eat all your...

Ashe pauses, confused. Not the brightest of fellows, his one line of the play is beyond him.

PROMPTER (O.S.)  
 Children.

ASHE  
 ...children.

BLACKBEARD  
 Boo! Kill him!

JENNY  
 Not while Captain Julius Jessell  
 sails these seas!

And with that, as Ashe-stroke-dragon approaches, Jenny leans over and takes a swing at her friend with her cardboard sword.

A swing and a miss.

She overbalances and the cardboard planks of the boat give way, casting her into the papery waves below.

The audience erupts with LAUGHTER.

Laughter swiftly silenced with one cold, hard look from Blackbeard. *Men have walked his plank for less...*

Jenny picks herself up and, imagining that is what a real pirate would do, takes another hefty swing at the monster.

This time she connects hard with the head, cracking it open like a pinata. Ashe appears, dazed and confused, staring blankly out into the audience...

Jenny raises her sword aloft in triumph.

Blackbeard stands to give RAPTUROUS APPLAUSE for a battle well fought.

BLACKBEARD  
 Bravo!

The CURTAIN falls.

2 INT. THE TEACH FAMILY DINING ROOM - EVENING

2

The family Teach sit around the dining table in their dimly lit wooden dining room. The spread on the table looks delicious, as long as you like fish.

Jenny goes to grab a particularly good-looking piece of Flounder...

MARY

Ah, ah, ah, Jenny. Now remember, we have to say grace before we start. Why don't you lead as you are in such a rush?

JENNY

OK, mother. For the fish we are about to devour heartily, may Neptune make us truly piratey, Ah Arrgh!

MARY

Lovely dear. And I want to see all those fish sprouts eaten this time.

Blackbeard pours rum from a bottle in the middle of the table for himself.

JENNY

Can I have some too Dad?

BLACKBEARD

I don't think so dearest. This stuff isn't for ladies.

MARY

Come on, after that rousing performance of Captain Jessell I think she deserves just a little drink Eddie dear.

Jenny is buoyant with glee...

JENNY

Please dad! See what all the fuss is about. What are good types? I've heard Captain Morgan makes a good bottle.

Blackbeard's smile drops from his face and the legendary Blackbeard anger spreads across his face.

BLACKBEARD  
 (shouting)  
 I will not have that name said in  
 this house thank you very much!

JENNY  
 Why?

Mary rolls her eyes as she knows what is coming...

MARY  
 Best not go there, my dear. More fish  
 carrots?

Blackbeard stands, starting to draw his sword fighting the  
 enemy in his mind...

BLACKBEARD  
 That scurvy sea-dog. May his ship be  
 beset with Spangle Gall and he  
 himself be struck down with poxed  
 crabs.

Blackbeard stares into the far distance, thinking back to  
 his arch-enemy...

BLACKBEARD (cont'd)  
 He tried it on with your mother once,  
 see. At the annual ball of the Guild  
 of Pernicious, Perverted and Partly  
 Perplexed Pirates.

3 INT. ANNUAL GPPPPP BALL - EVENING [FLASHBACK]

3

A younger Blackbeard and Mary are dancing at the ball, both  
 resplendent in piratey evening wear - all black capes and  
 gleaming silver - the spotlight on them. They are the belles  
 of the ball...

Suddenly the far door flings opens and the ring of light  
 moves to its occupier: CAPTAIN HENRY MORGAN (25), beautiful  
 in his red coat and blue cape.

He twirls over to Mary and snatches her from Blackbeard. The  
 two tango, Morgan flinging her hither and yon...

BLACKBEARD (V.O.)  
 Got her drunk on that cheap tat of  
 his and tried to have his wicked way.  
 But luckily I intervened just in  
 time, didn't I dear.

We see Blackbeard push a very happy Mary violently aside and square up to Morgan, eyeball to eyeball...

4 INT. THE TEACH FAMILY DINING ROOM - EVENING

4

Mary reminisces, obviously with very different thoughts of Morgan...

MARY

Hmm, yes...

BLACKBEARD

Bested the blighter good and proper I did too. Ran off to the high seas with his tail between his legs.

MARY

Nobody has seen hide nor hair of him since.

BLACKBEARD

Probably holed up on some Caribbean island making his moonshine. Anyway, no more talk of that man's drink...

Blackbeard heads over to his drinks cabinet - its inventory composed entirely of rums...

BLACKBEARD (cont'd)

OK, OK. How about a glass of Captain Smirnoff's white rum? Heard it's all the rage out east. Or Captain Kokomo's pineapple rum? That's one for the ladies. Ease you into your rum drinking slowly.

JENNY

But dad, I can take the rough stuff. What are you drinking? Give me some of that.

Blackbeard picks up his glass and drinks down the remains, then wipes his mouth on his sleeve...

BLACKBEARD

This isn't for little girls. This is Captain Fiery's Red Hot Rum. I've seen a single bottle of this kill seven sturdy seaman, and their parrots, in one night.

He refills his glass from the bottle, which has a skull and crossbones in flames on it. Before he can take another sip, Jenny nabs it and downs the drink in one.

She immediately regrets it. Her face turns from regular pink to purple to red to black in a matter of seconds.

MARY  
Fish water, dear?

Jenny's doesn't want to lose face, blackened as it is...

JENNY  
(rasping)  
No thank you mother.

Jenny coughs and regains her composure. She SLAMS the glass down on the table...

JENNY (cont'd)  
Another father.

BLACKBEARD  
Jenny...

JENNY  
ANOTHER! I am a Teach. I have pirate blood. I can take the hard stuff!

BLACKBEARD  
Jenny. No. How many times must we go through this. You were a wonderful pirate on the stage tonight, but that is as far as your pirating adventures are ever going to go...

Jenny starts to get cross at the lecture she has heard a hundred times before.

BLACKBEARD (cont'd)  
Pirates are men. We are all men. Even Mad Jack 'Four Frocks' Hanover, under all those frocks. Twas ever thus.

JENNY  
But I am pirate royalty, dad. My father is you, Blackbeard, the most piratical, tyrannical, terrifyingly terrific and breathtakingly hirsute pirate ever to sail the seven seas. How can I not be fit to be a pirate?

Blackbeard jumps on this lapse in Jenny's knowledge.

BLACKBEARD

Aha! See! You don't know anything about being a pirate. Every true, male pirate knows there are six seas. The sea of death, the sea of danger, the sea of doom, the sea of disaster, the sea of sea-monsters, and SeaWorld...

He turns to Mary...

BLACKBEARD (cont'd)

Arrgh, us pirates do love us a performing dolphin.

Mary tries to console Jenny.

MARY

You don't want to be a pirate dear. Those boats are very dirty. You've seen the mess you father is when he gets back from his pillaging. He is not spic and span like now...

Jenny looks over her father as he continues his meal, fish juice running down his beard, blood over his coat. His hair rustles as something is nesting in there...

She desperately wants to be like him...

BLACKBEARD

Anyway, that is enough of this silly chat for one night. I was going to let you come for a little sail with me and the crew of the Queen Anne's Revenge tomorrow, as a treat after your wonderful performance tonight. But I think you've spoiled that now, haven't you?

Jenny sits disconsolate at the table. Blackbeard perks up though...

BLACKBEARD (cont'd)

Looks like me and the boys will have a nice day in the pub instead tomorrow...

After a beat...

MARY

Fish fritters, anyone?

Silence.

MARY (cont'd)  
 How about a round of our favorite  
 family game - Who Wants To Be A  
 Doubloonaire?

5 EXT. BARTHOLOMEW POINT BOATING LAKE - MORNING

5

Ashe is standing chucking stones at the Geese. After a beat,  
 one throws a stone back. It hits him in the eye

Slightly dazed and very stupid, he doesn't recognize Jenny  
 as she approaches. Mainly because she is wearing her Julius  
 Jessell beard.

JENNY  
 What ho Ashe!

Ashe is slightly afraid of the strange man talking to him...

ASHE  
 Stranger danger! Stranger danger!

JENNY  
 It's me, Jenny!

Jenny pulls down the beard on its string, revealing her true  
 self.

ASHE  
 Blimey Jenny, I didn't know who it  
 was. I thought you might be the  
 pirate giant 'Red-Headed Reed'. The  
 Encyclopedia Piratannica said that he  
 once killed nineteen men with just  
 his breath!

JENNY  
 It also says that he was over twenty-  
 six feet tall. I'm four-seven.

ASHE  
 I thought maybe you were just far  
 away...

JENNY  
 Anyway. I've got a plan. How do you  
 fancy going sailing this afternoon?

ASHE

Yeah! The boathouse is just over there. I'll get some ice-creams for us and some stones for the geese, and you go hire a rowing boat.

JENNY

Not here, silly. On the open seas. In the dangerous ocean.

ASHE

I don't think that rowing boats work well on the dangerous ocean. And the waves might mean we'll spill our ice-cream.

JENNY

Not in a rowing boat, in a proper boat. My dad's boat is unguarded and uncrewed today. We can take it out for a spin, and have it back before he misses it. Come on!

ASHE

I'm not so sure Jenny. I promised my mum I'd be back in time for dinner. Fish sausages tonight!

JENNY

Come on Ashe, Don't you want to be a pirate?

ASHE

No. I want to be a troubadour!

JENNY

A troubadour?

ASHE

Yes! Traveling the world, entertaining people with my ballads and flute playing...

JENNY

But you are tone deaf Ashe...

Ashe isn't listening, instead singing one of his ditties tunelessly...

ASHE

(singing)

So we sail-ed up to the s-un...  
Till we fou-nd the sea of gre-en...

JENNY

Well, why don't you do that on the boat. What better way to see the world than on a leaky wooden ship, surrounded by men of questionable moral standards, killing innocent merchant seamen, while been chased by the Royal Navy with the threat of execution!

ASHE

Yeah!

They saunter off to get ready...

JENNY

Wait, are you saying I've got bad breath?

6 INT. PIRATE PETE'S EMPORIUM - DAY

6

The shop doorbell RINGS as Jenny, still in bearded disguise, and Ashe enter the shop.

Pirate Pete's is where all the deadliest pirates go to get their wares. The shop is festooned with all manner of pirating garb - hats, swords, skulls, crossbones, second-hand gangplanks, jollies, rogers - everything.

On the sounds of the bell a slightly balding, awfully happy shop assistant, KEVIN, 34, bounds out from a back room.

KEVIN

Welcome, welcome! Welcome to Pirate Pete's pirate and pirating emporium!

JENNY

Are you Pirate Pete?

KEVIN

Why no! My name is Captain Kevin. Captain Kevin the sales assistant.

JENNY

Well, Kev, my friend and I are starting out on our lives on the open seas later today and we need to get everything the modern pirate needs for life on the ocean wave.