



CK Reporter of the Week
Natalia Goncharova, Fort Morgan

Latest 'Pirates' untrue to series

"Pirates of the Caribbean" is known for its balance of witty humor and action.

If you're a fan of the "Pirates of the Caribbean" movies, however, the latest in the series, "Dead Men Tell No Tales," won't at all seem familiar to you.

Once you get past the second scene -- which was so brutally violent that I had to close my eyes once or twice -- you'll begin to see the lack of relatable characters and witty dialogue.

The Jack Sparrow whom fans have grown to know is now replaced by Johnny Depp portraying a drunken, rude pirate who staggers around the stage.

The premise of the film is that an adult Henry Turner (*Brenton Thwaites*) seeks to free his father, Will Turner, (*Orlando Bloom*) from the Flying Dutchman's curse. He seeks the help of Jack Sparrow (*Johnny Depp*) and Carina Smyth (*Kaya Scodelario*) to find the trident of Poseidon and thus achieve his goal.

The movie feels rushed and is far too fast-paced, cramming as many mass murders as they can into two hours of movie time.

The main antagonist is not a very relatable character, unlike previous villains in the series.

In the past, villains in the franchise have had a clear motive, a strong personality, and have even made you feel sorry for them once or twice.

All of this is replaced by Captain Salazar, (*Javier Bardem*) a ghost ship captain who kills for fun and takes no plunder.

The jokes in this movie are at their funniest; You will laugh in particular at Jack's uncle.

However, the lack of balanced witty dialogue and the presence of brutal on-screen assassinations make them hard to focus on.

In addition to that, the jokes are reused over and over until they just make you groan.

The first half of the movie isn't nearly as bad as the rest.

In the first few minutes, a young Henry Turner (*Lewis McGowan*) and Will Turner create a believable, beautifully done scene that lasts for two minutes.



For the rest of the film, you have to keep pinching yourself to be reminded that you're watching a "Pirates" film.

The soundtrack is excellent, and enhances the film, but that doesn't make up for the fight scenes that take so many dizzying camera angles that it looks as if their cameraman was throwing his equipment like a football.

Many unnecessary plot details are added that play no part in the big picture.

Clearly, the screenwriters didn't do their research, as any "Pirates" fan can point out the simple details that conflict with previous films.

But if you're new to the series, you won't understand a second of it because it calls back many characters' details from previous films.

The movie itself essentially serves as a second part to "At World's End."

Anyone under thirteen should not see this movie, because of the sickening sound effects and bloody violence.

My biggest complaint with the film is in the lore surrounding its magical item in the final chapter of the film.

In the beginning, a young Henry says that it can break any curse.

Great! However, it is later used to harness whirlwinds and sea waves to beat someone bloody.

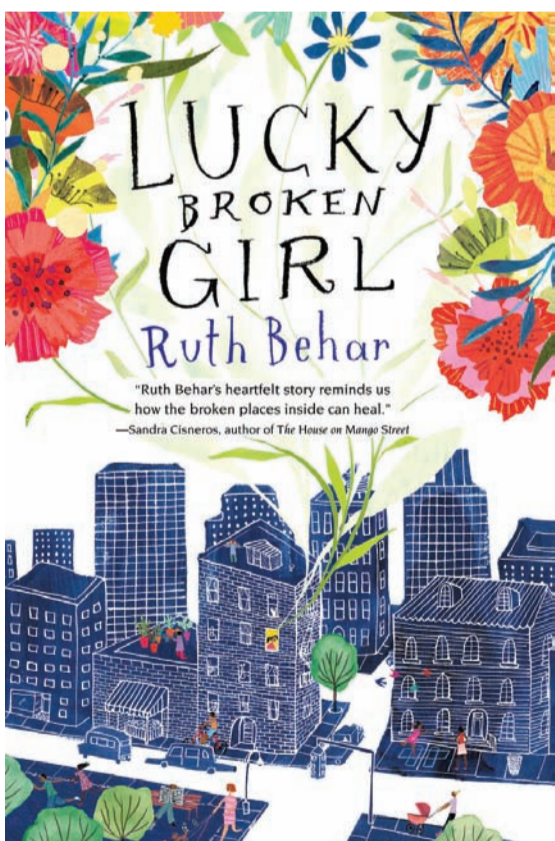
So, to sum it all up, if you're a fan of the series, you might as well go and check on your old friend Jack.

But you won't want to buy a second ticket.



By Jonah Rupe,
13, a CK Reporter
from Evergreen

Characters make novel well worth reading



"Lucky Broken Girl," by Ruth Behar is a wonderful novel.

When you first read the title it doesn't sound like the most interesting book, but in the end it turned out to be one of my favorites ever.

Ruthie, the main character in "Lucky Broken Girl," moves from Cuba to Queens, New York City, with her family when she's in 5th grade.

Hopscotch is always being played out front of the apartments where she lives.

There is a girl there wearing go-go boots and Ruthie really really wants some, so her dad gets her her first pair of go-go boots.

Then one day, Ruthie gets in a car accident and gets put in a body cast for a little bit over a year.

One of the things that makes her the most sad is that she lost one of her boots and she knows how hard her dad worked to save the money to buy them.

She has a broken leg and knows it will take a long time to recover from her injury.

At first she feels stuck in her apartment but while she is in her cast, new neighbors come by to visit.

These new people teach her different lessons throughout the book.

The thing I thought was really cool, is all the friends she meets along the way are from different cultures.

Not only is she lucky to have survived her accident, but she is also lucky to have learned so much about the great people in her neighborhood.

Some of the characters speak Spanish, which I don't, and this made reading those parts fun to try and figure out.

I would recommend "Lucky Broken Girl," to anyone who likes to read stories with interesting characters.



By Sadie Perry,
9, a CK Reporter
from Aurora



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Tommy and the Guttersnipe

Chapter Four:

Our story so far: Tommy tried selling shirts at the ferry slip, but Stork Shanahan and his gang bullied him into giving it up. Now he's going to try selling newspapers with the help of the homeless 7-year-old guttersnipe, Baby Jake.

As Tommy closed the front door of the tenement the next morning at 4 a.m., Baby Jake popped up from the corner of the front steps.

"Where've you been, Shakespeare?" he asked. "We should have been there already."

Tommy looked at the pile of waste paper in the corner by the building. "Did you sleep there?" he asked.

Baby Jake glanced back. "Yeah. Not as warm as a steam grate, but it ain't cold these days."

They began to walk towards Publisher's Row, the neighborhood where the newspaper offices were.

"Don't you stay at the Newsboy's Lodging House?" Tommy asked.

Baby Jake shrugged. "Sometimes, in the winter. But when I've got money, I'd rather spend it on the theater. We go to a place for dinner and then to the theater for a show. It's fun, Shakespeare. I'll take you some time."

"You mind if I ask you something?" Tommy said. "How come you ran away from home?"

Baby Jake snorted. "I didn't run away. My old man dumped me."

"What do you mean?"

"He took me on the streetcar downtown and then just left me." Baby Jake looked over at Tommy. "It was okay. He used to slap us around something awful."

They walked along in silence for a moment, but then Tommy asked. "What about the rest of your family? How come they let him dump you off like that?"

"They were gone. My ma got sick and died, and so did my baby sister, and my big brother," Baby Jake listed them. "So it was just me and Pa and my big sister. I guess he didn't know what to do with us. So he sold her to a lady who makes cigars. But she was six, so she could work. I was too little to be useful and nobody would buy me."

They were near the newspaper offices now, so Tommy didn't have to think of anything to say about it. "Now, what do I do?" he asked, instead.

"Pick a newspaper," Baby Jake said. "We'll do the World, everybody likes that one. Got your fifty cents? You buy a bundle of 100 papers, you sell them for a penny each. That's it"

They walked around to the loading dock of the New York World and Tommy bought a pack of papers.

"Now let's go down to the ferry slip," he suggested. "That's a good place."

"Good place to get beat up," Baby Jake said. "You've got to be willing to fight a lot if you want to sell there."

"Really?"

"Why do you think Stork and those guys tore up your shirts?" Baby Jake asked.

"But Dutch is there every day, blacking boots," Tommy said.

"Yeah, he's there every day. It's his spot, him and about four or five other bootblacks" Baby Jake explained. "Anybody new wants to shine shoes there, they've gotta fight Dutch and his pals. And Dutch is a nice guy but he's plenty tough. Even Stork wouldn't have bothered you guys yesterday, if he didn't have his friends with him."

Tommy thought as they walked. "Well, I want to be where people walk by," he said. "How about if we go up to Wall Street?"

Baby Jake just looked at him.

"That's taken, too? The whole street?" Tommy asked. "Well, we have to find some place."

They finally agreed to try the corner of Rector and Greenwich. It wasn't the biggest stop on the streetcar line, but some men would get off there to go to their offices on Wall Street.

When they arrived, there was one corner with only a few newsboys, and a good crowd of well-dressed men heading for work.

"Here, I'll show you," Baby Jake said.

He took a handful of papers and went to the middle of the sidewalk. "Extra! Big fire at the White House! President Arthur burned bad! Extra!" he cried. Several gentlemen quickly stopped and bought papers before Tommy ran up to him.

"That's not in the paper!" he said.

Baby Jake shrugged. "They won't call the cops over a penny."

"It's still not ..." Tommy began, but suddenly a big boy stepped in front of him.

"Who do you think you are, selling on my corner?" he asked.

"I didn't see anybody," Tommy answered, but, as he said it, he felt someone behind him yank his bundle of papers from under his arm so they fell and scattered over the sidewalk.

The big boy grabbed Tommy's shoulders and held him while two others scuffed the papers with their feet and kicked them into the muddy gutter. Then he gave him a hard push. "Don't come back," he said.

Tommy started picking up his papers, but they were all torn and muddy. He felt like crying.

"That's okay, Shakespeare," Baby Jake said, comfortingly. "We'll just get another bundle."

Tommy shook his head. "I don't have any more money."

"Wait here." Baby Jake ducked across the street and disappeared into the crowd. A few minutes later, he came back. "How much do you want?" he asked, pulling a fat wallet out from under his loose shirt.

Tommy stared at it. "Where did you get that?" he cried.

"From that guy," Baby Jake said, pointing across the street and down the block, to a well-dressed gentleman who was just going in the front doors of a bank.



Sudoku Solution

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 5 |
| 6 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 4 |
| 3 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 2 |
| 5 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 3 |
| 2 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 1 |
| 1 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 6 |

Brainteaser Solution



(see Page Three)

10 right - Wow!

7 right - Great!

5 right - Good

3 right - See you next time!

- ebony
- Elizabeth (II)
- Estes Park
- eclipse
- Ethiopia
- (John) Elway
- emu
- Excalibur
- (Mount) Elbert
- (Alexandre) Eiffel

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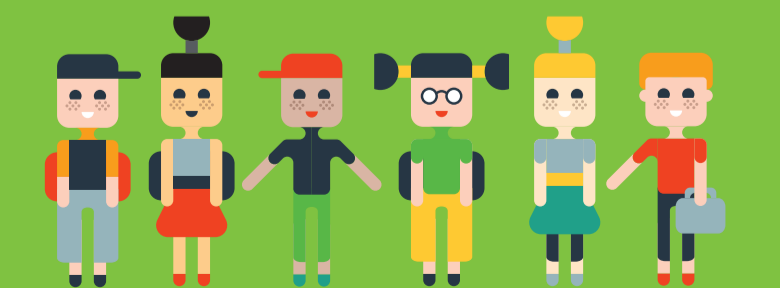
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