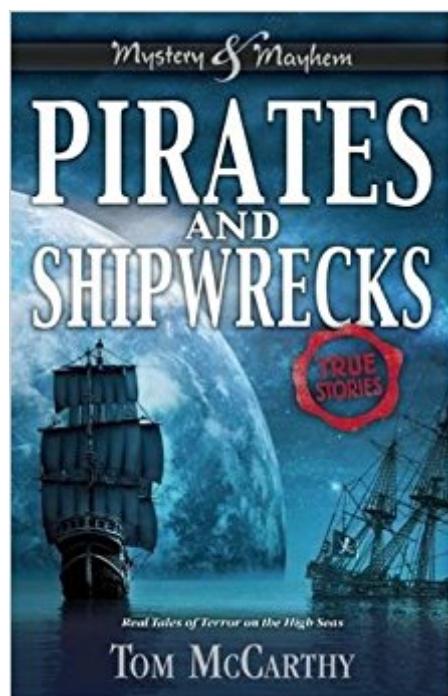


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# Pirates And Shipwrecks: True Stories (Mystery And Mayhem)



## **Synopsis**

When Daniel Collins and the crew of the Betsey set sail for Cuba in 1824, they have no idea of the horrors that lie ahead. This is just one of the stories in a collection of five true tales about pirates and shipwrecks that introduces readers to the perils of the high seas. *Pirates and Shipwrecks: True Stories* is the first book in the *Mystery & Mayhem* series for 9-12 year olds, which features true tales that whet kids' appetites for history by engaging them in genres with proven track records—mystery and adventure. History is made of near misses, unexplained disappearances, unsolved mysteries, and bizarre events that are almost too weird to be true! The *Mystery & Mayhem* series delves into the past to provide kids with a jumping-off point into a lifelong habit of appreciating history. Each of the true tales in *Pirates and Shipwrecks*, including stories about pirate Barbarossa and adventurer John Franklin, is paired with interesting facts about the setting, industry, and time period. A glossary and index provide the opportunity to use essential academic tools. These nonfiction narratives use clear, concise language with compelling plots, drawing in both avid and reluctant readers.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 940L (What's this?)

Series: Mystery and Mayhem

Paperback: 128 pages

Publisher: Nomad Press; Reprint edition (October 11, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1619304759

ISBN-13: 978-1619304758

Product Dimensions: 5.6 x 0.3 x 8.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 1 customer review

Best Sellers Rank: #1,619,442 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #23 in Children's Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Pirates #9296 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History #27108 in Books > Children's Books > Action & Adventure

Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 6

## **Customer Reviews**

Gr 5-8 "These hi-lo books focus on high-stakes stories from European and U.S. history. Each

begins with a brief overview, followed by profiles of a specific person or disaster. In *Pirates and Shipwrecks*, readers are introduced to a number of pirates and three shipwrecked crews. Two shipwrecks, the *Bounty* mutiny, the ill-fated *Donner* party, and a trek across Death Valley comprise *Survival*. Intriguing details about Ernest Shackleton's starving crew keep readers engaged. A map of the area where each event took place, a time line, and an abbreviated list of other historical events from the time period allow students an additional way to connect with the material. Aside from an author's note that attributes the story of Daniel Collins to a published narrative, none of the other tales have references. The author uses the phrases *savage islanders* and *natives who would kill them* to describe encounters survivors had with people from island nations. **VERDICT** Because of the stereotypical language and lack of sources, this title is not recommended. Librarians should instead seek out Lauren Tarshis's *Nature Attacks!* *Hilary Writt, Sullivan University, Lexington, KY*  
--This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Praise for *Pirates and Shipwrecks: Real Tales of Terror on the High Seas*  
*Geekdad.com* "This *Mystery & Mayhem* series has really grabbed my son's attention. The second book he enjoyed was *Pirates and Shipwrecks*, another 124-page book filled with five true tales involving ships and pirates. In these pages, he read about Daniel Collins encounter with pirates after his captain and crew mates shipwrecked. The tale is not for the faint of heart, with its gruesome details of the crew's fate at the hands of the pirates. I thought my son would toss the book away after we read that first chapter together, but apparently young boys know what to expect when it comes to true tales of pirates | he was hooked. This led to him reading more about a search for a long-lost captain and crew, a female pirate who dressed as a man, an island of cannibals(!), and the closing tale of the most infamous pirate of all, Barbarossa. As with the *Survival* book, each chapter opens with some maps and closes with a 'What Happened Next?' summary, some other historical events for the time period, and a glossary. I asked my son which was his favorite of the two *Mystery & Mayhem* books "it was the *Pirates and Shipwrecks* book, of course! He was also quite pleased when I told him that there are two more books coming out in the series in May 2017: "Weird Disappearances" and "Daring Heists." *This Kid Reviews Books, October 3, 2016 Blog* "Mr. McCarthy has written another book that is just as good as the *Survival* book. Also nonfiction, these true stories tell of real-life pirates, and also real-life shipwrecks that almost (or even did!) turned into disasters. It was an interesting look into a different time. The one thing I like about both books is that they include maps of where the events take place. . . The books are shorter, and good for a quick read, especially chapter by chapter. A

really nice nonfiction series! I give this book five out of five bookworms!"*Novel Novice*, September 30, 2016 BlogHistory comes alive in the new *Mystery & Mayhem* series from author Tom McCarthy • a new non-fiction series that aims to get young readers excited about history by sharing thrilling, real-life stories of adventure and intrigue. I love the concept of this series • and so far, I love the books in the series, too! *Mom Read It Blog*". . . . There are five stories of pirates and shipwrecks here, all true. Pirate fans, brandish your cutlasses, put on your eyepatch, and have a seat; these are the stories of the real *Pirates of the Caribbean* (and then some)!"*Kirkus Reviews* "Five true tales of pirates and shipwrecks spare none of the intriguing and grisly details. Employing a casual, conversational tone that reads easily, McCarthy spins five yarns of bloodthirsty pirates and harrowing shipwrecks. . . . A breezy offering just right for fans of survival tales.*Titles Edited by Tom McCarthy**Far Afield, A Sportswriting Odyssey* by S.L. Price*The New York Times* "The sports reportage in this gracefully written book is strong enough to make the sometimes-dated events seem timeless."*Esquire Magazine* "Far Afield is mostly a journey of self-discovery, honest and true without any of the usual sun-dappled barf. It reminds us that sports can tell us more about one another than just about anything else we do, so long as someone as able as Price provides the translation."*Duty, Honor, Victory* by Gary Bloomfield*Sports Illustrated* "An excellent book, it could be sent to school with your kids and used for social studies classes."*Publishers Weekly*

Readers aged 9 to 12 are often attracted to stories about pirates and shipwrecks, and that may be especially true when those stories are about events that happened to real people. That's the appeal of *Pirates and Shipwrecks: True Stories* by Tom McCarthy, a title in the *Mystery & Mayhem* series. McCarthy features three shipwrecks and two pirates in this quick read that is sure to keep the pages turning. There's the story of Daniel Collins, whose ship went down near Cuba and who escaped death when most others in his crew died. There's also the tale of Captain Douty, who had to keep a group of English soldiers and their families safe after their ships wrecked in a storm near islands where cannibals lived. Readers learn about the background of the infamous pirate Barbarossa as well as that of Mary Reed, one of two female pirates to operate in the Caribbean. It's all a lot of fun that will encourage young readers to enjoy learning facts about events from history. The publisher provided me with a copy of this book in exchange for my honest review.

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*Pirates and Shipwrecks: True Stories (Mystery and Mayhem)* *True Ghost Stories And Hauntings: Eerie True Paranormal Hauntings, Unexplained Phenomena And Disturbing True Ghost Stories*

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