

A PIRATE ADVENTURE

CHAPTER 1



The New Hope

Jason Wellington lived in a large city by the sea. From his home above the city, he looked out across the water and watched the large ships with their tall white sails come and go as they brought goods from faraway places. He dreamed that one day he would sail away on one of those ships and explore the world. He had daydreams of great adventures in exotic countries. He dreamed of battles against pirates who wanted to capture the cargo on his ship. He would be the hero that saved everyone, and then one day, he would be the captain of his own sailing ship.

Jason enjoyed going down to the docks and watching all of the activity as the men loaded and unloaded the ships. He listened to stories of strange people and strange places. He heard about the pirates and how they treated those who refused to join them. They told of a red ship with bright white sails that sailed around the world looking for the richest ships to plunder. The captain of this ship was the famous Captain Horatio, the most feared man in the entire world. His ship, the Red Calipso had been taking the cargo of merchant ships for many years. The navy tried to capture him on many occasions, but he always slipped away.

Jason listened carefully as the sailors told their tales of the high seas. Each story made him feel as though he was on the ship sailing with them. He would close his eyes and imagine the places and people in the stories.

Jason was too young to be a sailor. His mother warned him that life on a ship was

not all adventure. Work on a sailing ship was hard work. There are many things to do and the newest member of the crew always had the hardest work of all. It was also very dangerous. Storms, pirates, and other perils had taken the lives of many sailors, including Jason's father.

She told him that the men on the ship cleaned the decks, coiled the ropes, and folded the sails so they were organized; ready at a moment's notice. Food was to be prepared three times a day, and then the captain would find even more work for the crew to do after all of the chores were finished. Life on a sailing ship was very hard work and the days very long. Weeks might pass before seeing land. The sun would be hot, a storm might blow in, or it would get so cold that a blanket could not keep him warm. The time at sea is hard.

Even though he knew all of these things, this didn't stop Jason from dreaming about the sea. He didn't care about the hard work. He wanted the adventure of seeing far-off places and meeting new people.

One day, while Jason was listening to a group of sailors sharing their stories, a man approached him and waved for him to come over to him.

The man said, "Young man, I have seen you sitting here day after day listening to these men talk. I think you are eager to join them. Am I right?"

"YES!" Jason exclaimed. "I want to go on a ship and sail around the world!"

"Come with me," the man said. "I'll make your wish come true."

Jason followed the man. He was excited. What could this man mean? Was he really going to sail on a ship? Was his dream going to come true?"

The two of them walked along the dock in silence. Jason had never been to the end of the docks before. The farther they walked the more excited and nervous Jason became.

They came to a small brown building with a big sign on the front. It said, '**FAR EAST SHIPPING COMPANY**'.

Jason looked out at the sea from the end of the long dock. Tied up at the dock, across from the building, was the biggest ship he had ever seen. It had four tall masts

with the sails neatly strapped to the yardarms as they swayed in the wind. It looked beautiful against the blue sky and the white clouds that were floating gently in the sky above.

The man led Jason into the office. There was a very big man in a grey coat sitting at a desk writing with a feather pen. Without looking up he said, "Sit down, I'll be with you in a minute."

Jason found a broken chair in the corner, sat down, and looked around the office. It wasn't much to look at. There were papers pinned on the wall behind the man at the desk. All of the furniture looked old and very used. The only window in the room had a crack in it, and it was very dirty. There was a small lamp on the desk, but the wick was not lit, even though the room was dark. On each of the corner of the desk, there were papers stacked. Other than that, the room was very plain.

The man who brought him to the office left, leaving Jason alone with the big man who continued to work at his desk.

After what seemed like a long time, the man behind the desk looked up and said, "Hello young man, my name is Mr. Garnes. Mr Roberts tells me that you want to be a sailor someday. Is this true?"

Jason looked up at Mr. Garnes very surprised. "Yes sir, that's my dream!"

"Well, I have an opening for a cabin boy on one of my ships that leaves tomorrow. The boy who was supposed to go got sick, so I need a replacement right away. The ship will be back in time for you to start school in the fall. Are you interested?" Mr. Garnes asked Jason.

"Of Course! What do I have to do?" Jason questioned.

"You'll have to get your parent's permission before we can do anything. Here, take this paper home to your parents and have them sign it. Bring it back to me today, and then we'll get you the things you'll need for the voyage," Mr. Garnes informed him.

Jason took the paper and ran all the way home.

Jason burst into the house breathing hard.

“Mom! I’ve been offered a job as a cabin boy on a ship. Mr. Garnes at the Far East Shipping Company gave me this paper for you to sign so I can go. Will you sign it please?” Jason begged his mother.

Jason’s mother took the paper and read it. She sat down at the table and stared out the window. She had a very sad look on her face.

Looking back at Jason with tears in her eyes, she said to him, “Jason, you know that your father went on a voyage and he never returned. I don’t want the same thing to happen to you.”

“Mom, you know this is what I have always wanted to do. I will only be gone three months. When I get back I will know if this is what I really want to do. Please let me go!” Jason pleaded with his mother.

“I’ll think about it and answer you tomorrow,” his mother replied.

“I have to bring it back today. Mr. Garnes said he needed to know right away so he can get the things I need for the voyage. The ship leaves tomorrow and I need to be ready,” Jason continued.

His mother said sadly, “I’ll answer you after dinner. Go inside, go to your room and get ready for dinner. I have a lot of thinking to do.”

Jason went to his room. He got on his knees next to his bed and said a prayer asking to go on this trip. He then quickly grabbed some of the things he wanted to take with him and put them into a bag, along with a picture of his family. He was packed and ready to go.

At dinner no one spoke. Jason’s little sister was even quiet for the first time.

At the end of the meal, Jason’s mother spoke up. “So Jason, this is what you really want to do?” she asked.

“Yes mom, more than anything else in the whole world. Please can I go?” Jason begged again.

His mother looked at him with tears in her eyes.

“I guess I really don’t have a choice. Someday you will be old enough to go off on

your own, so I guess you need to find out if this is what you really want to do in your life,” his mother said, pulling him close to give him a hug.

She continued, “I’ll sign the papers. You can go on the voyage. I’ll pray for your safety every day.” She bent over and kissed him on the forehead.

Jason ate the last of his food and then ran out of the house toward the docks. He ran all the way to the Far East Shipping Company. He ran through the door with his paper in his hand.

Panting and out of breath Jason stated, “I have the paper! It’s signed by my mother. I can go on the voyage!”

Mr. Garnes laughed, “You made it just in time. I was beginning to wonder if I needed to find someone else.”

Mr. Garnes gave Jason a list of things he would need to buy at the local general store. He would need shoes, rope, soap, extra shirts and pants, a hat, a bedroll to sleep on, and dishes on which to eat. He gave Jason some money to purchase the things he needed.

The next day Jason got up early and went to the general store to buy his supplies. When he was finished getting the things he needed he went home. His mother had lunch ready and the family was sitting at the table. Jason quickly washed up and then joined them. Everyone was asking Jason about the journey he was about to take.

“I don’t know anything other than the ship’s name is the *New Hope* and that it leaves at seven o’clock tonight. We will be gone about three months. I don’t even know where we are going,” he told his family.

After lunch, he finished putting all of his gear together. He was ready to go.

He went down the stairs very quietly only to find his entire family waiting for him to say good-bye. After many hugs and kisses, Jason left the house for the dock.

The *New Hope* was docked at the end of pier twenty-five. Jason knew exactly where to go. When he got there he looked high into the sky. The masts of the ship seemed to touch the clouds they were so tall.

A man met him when he tried to board the ship.

“And who might you be, young man?” the man asked.

“I am Jason Wellington and I am the new cabin boy,” Jason replied proudly with a big smile.

“Are you Henry Wellington’s son?” the man asked.

“Yes I am. Did you know my father?” Jason questioned the man.

“Did I know him? We were on the same ship together for many years. Too bad what happened to him,” the man informed Jason.

“You know what happened to him?” Jason asked

“Didn’t anyone ever tell you?” the man asked surprised.

“No, we were just told he was lost at sea,” Jason answered.

“I will tell you all about your father when we have more time. You need to get aboard. The captain doesn’t like it when the crew is late. Go to the front of the ship. One of the men will show you where to bunk,” the sailor directed Jason.

Jason walked up the long ramp that led to the deck of the *New Hope*. He was thinking about what the man had said about his father when he tripped over a rope and ended up sprawled out on the deck. The men laughed at him. Jason turned red in the face from embarrassment.

“Where do I put my things?” Jason asked one of the crew members.

The man pointed to a door at the front of the ship.

Jason got up and went to the door. Just as he was about to open it, the door swung open so fast that it knocked him down to the ground once again.

“Who are you?” a gruff and angry voice asked him.

Lying on his backside, he looked up at the man who had come through the door and answered, “I’m Jason Wellington and I’m the new cabin boy.” Jason got up and brushed the dirt off of his clothes.

“Get downstairs and ask the cook where you should put your things. Then come up to the bridge and the captain will give you instructions on what your duties will be,” the man said, as he moved quickly past Jason toward the back of the ship.

Jason moved past the big burly man and went down the stairs into the belly of the ship. When he got to the bottom he saw an open door to his right and looked inside.

There was short bearded man in the corner who was looking for something.

“Is the cook here?” Jason asked.

“That would be me. Who are you?” the cook responded, as he turned to see who was talking to him

“I’m Jason Wellington, the new cabin boy,” Jason answered.

“You wouldn’t be Henry Wellington’s boy, would you?” the cook asked as he looked at the boy from head to toe.

“Yes, did you know him?” Jason answered once again surprised that someone knew his father.

“I knew him well, until he was taken by the Pirate Captain Horatio. That was about five years ago, I think,” the cook said, as he stirred something in a big black pot. “Put your things in that closet over there to your right. You will sleep under the counter over there.”

Jason put his bag where the cook told him and then looked under the counter at his bed. It was a thin mattress filled with straw. There was just enough room for him. If he were any taller, he wouldn’t fit.

The cook then said, “You had better get to the captain, he isn’t very patient. You can call me Pappy, everyone else does.”

Jason left the galley and went up to the bridge. He passed by the sailors as they prepared to leave the dock. Everyone was busy climbing up and down the ropes, tying down boxes, cleaning the deck and releasing the ropes from the dock.

“Weigh the anchor!” a big voice from the back of the ship ordered.

Jason asked how to find the captain. One of the men pointed to the back of the ship. He pointed at the man with the big voice.

He climbed the stairs to the bridge. When he got to the top of the stairs he saw many people moving from place to place and the captain shouting out orders. A big man

in a blue jacket was holding the big wheel that steered the ship.

“Throw off the lines, prepare to shove off!” the captain yelled out.

“Aye Sir!” came the response.

The large ship began to move away from the dock, the sails unfurled from the yard arms, and the wind began to fill them. A feeling of excitement came over Jason. He was really going on an adventure. The ship would soon be out to sea and he was a part of the crew.

Just then, a loud voice yelled out.

“BOY! Get over here. I need to give you your instructions,” the captain ordered.

Jason ran over to the captain. “Yes sir, what can I do for you?” he asked.

Captain Fortner was an impressive man. He was tall with thick curly black hair. He had a thin beard with a touch of gray in it. He had on a red and blue uniform with white pants. His hat was large and was tilted slightly to the left. There was a beautiful saber hanging from his belt on his right side. His black boots has a shiny polish. As he commanded his men what to do, he had a serious look on his face.

The captain then handed him a list of duties. Jason looked it over.

“You can read, can’t you?” the captain asked.

“Yes sir, I can read,” Jason responded.

“You’ll get up at the rise of the sun and you’ll keep busy until the sun goes down,” the captain directed. “Get off of my bridge and get to work young man, or I’ll have you punished!”

Jason ran. He was afraid of the captain. He had heard stories about how crew members that didn’t do what the captain said might be whipped. That was the last thing in the world he wanted.

He went to the galley to help Pappy prepare the first meal. While in the galley Jason read his list of duties. He would be busy all day doing the jobs that he had on his list.

What he didn’t expect was the awful seasickness. It took him three days to finally

adjust to the motion of the ship. The sailors laughed at him when he ran to the side of the ship with a green face.

Even after the sun went down, Jason had many more things on his list to complete. He worked by the light of a candle until his chores were finished.

It would be like this day after day, but Jason didn't complain. He was on a ship sailing to another place. It was what he had always wanted to do.

VOCABULARY (*Match the word to its definition*)

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. crew _____ | a. soft cushion to sleep |
| 2. captain _____ | b. substitute |
| 3. wish _____ | c. ship's workers |
| 4. swayed _____ | d. journey by sea |
| 5. replacement _____ | e. dock, wharf, berth |
| 6. voyage _____ | f. skipper, leader |
| 7. pier _____ | g. dream, desire |
| 8. bunk _____ | h. keeps a ship in one place |
| 9. mattress _____ | i. back and forth in the wind |
| 10. anchor _____ | j. place to sleep, bed |

TRUE OR FALSE

- | | |
|---|-------|
| 1. Jason wanted to go on a ship. | T / F |
| 2. Jason's father went with him on the trip. | T / F |
| 3. Jason's mother said he could not go on the voyage. | T / F |
| 4. The company was called the Far East Trading Company. | T / F |
| 5. Jason had a sister. | T / F |
| 6. The ship was called the <i>New Horizon</i> . | T / F |
| 7. Mr. Garnes asked him if he wanted to be a captain. | T / F |
| 8. Pappy was the captain of the ship. | T / F |
| 9. Jason slept under the counter in the galley. | T / F |
| 10. Jason worked very hard every day. | T / F |

MULTIPLE CHOICE:

1. What was the name of the ship? _____
 - a) *New Horizon*
 - b) *New Hope*
 - c) *New Home*
 - d) *New Harmony*

2. What did Jason like to do every day? _____
 - a) wash the floors
 - b) go to school
 - c) visit his grandmother
 - d) listen to the sailors talk

3. Who had been lost at sea five years before? _____
 - a) Jason's uncle
 - b) Jason's father
 - c) Jason's mother
 - d) Jason's aunt

4. What was Jason's position on the ship? _____
 - a) cabin boy
 - b) cabin mate
 - c) assistant cook
 - d) swabby

COMPREHENSION: (*Write a complete sentence to answer the question.*)

1. What had Jason always wanted to do?

2. How long was the journey going to take?

3. Who offered him the job?

4. What were some of the jobs of a sailor?

5. What time did the ship leave the dock?

6. Why did Jason turn green in the face?

7. What happened to Jason when he first stepped onto the ship?

8. Where did Jason sleep?

9. Who gave him the list of duties he was to do every day?

10. Where was the ship going?
