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Juvenile Fiction

The Pirate's Parrot
Lyn Rossiter McFarland
Jim McFarland, illustrator
Tricycle Press
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“Ships ahoy, matey!” and “Aye, aye Captain” are commonplace phrases in this unexpectedly heroic tale of pirating on the high seas. The author gives an entertaining account of a half-blind and bumbling pirate captain, who is terribly troubled at the loss of his eye monocle and faithful parrot. So his ponderous pirate pals decide to improvise and replace his parrot with an unforeseen yet successful replacement. However, the loss of his monocle at this time allows this trickery to work.

The McFarland team pens a gallant and amusing story of a timeless genre, rich in tradition, with a fresh and innovative twist. The author hooks the reader with an imaginative premise, while staying true to realistic pirate dialogue. McFarland’s storytelling ability shines through in the way she has crafted each sentence. Her precise detail is displayed throughout the book, which enhances its authentic quality.

The second half of the McFarland team brings the reader onto the pirate ship and drifting in the high seawaters with his illuminating illustrations. He goes as far as pictorially introducing the main characters before the story even begins. This immediately intrigues the audience and makes them want to plunge right into the pirate caper. The distinctively colored and crafted characters’ features give The Pirate’s Parrot a great deal of humor, while at the same time leaving some mystery about their personalities.

The Pirate’s Parrot is a book for all ages. It is an excellent option for an adult to read to the younger child, as well as a favorite of the mid to upper elementary aged child. This book will be sure to delight pirates and heroes young at heart.