



Castaways of the Flying Dutchman

Brian Jacques, Ian Schoenherr (Illustrations)

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A boy and dog trapped aboard the Flying Dutchman, are sent off on an eternal journey by an avenging angel, roaming the earth throughout the centuries in search of those in need. Their travels lead them to Chapelvale, a sleepy nineteenth century village whose existence is at stake. Only by discovering the buried secrets and solving the dust-laden riddles of the ancient village can it be saved.

Castaways of the Flying Dutchman Details

Date : Published March 31st 2003 by Firebird (first published 2001)

ISBN : 9780142501184

Author : Brian Jacques , Ian Schoenherr (Illustrations)

Format : Paperback 356 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Young Adult, Fiction, Historical, Historical Fiction, Adventure, Childrens, Pirates, Middle Grade, Mystery

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From Reader Review Castaways of the Flying Dutchman for online ebook

Amanda says

Not bad, not bad at all. Definitely a little strange--and was that a cliffhanger ending?--but interesting and good overall. Especially the characters, those were well done. The whole idea with the angel and the eternity was the strange part, but it wasn't too strange for me to deal with so we're good.

Favorite line of the whole book was probably the very beginning where the cook named the boy:

"Hey, Jamil, what you call a boy with no name?" "Nebuchadnezzar." "Nebu-what?" "Nebuchadnezzar. It's from the Bible. I heard someone say it once." "That's too long. So, how about Neb? Yeah, I'll call you Neb."

(Paraphrased because I don't remember the exact words)

Lee says

Actually this is one of the most disappointing book I ever read.
The title firstly promising me about adventure!
Flying Dutchman! the legendary pirates!!

But the scurvy pirates presence is perhaps not more on the first 15 pages (okay, it's more than that actually, but it still a teensy bit of it).
I disappointed. badly.

The story also dull as hell (perhaps much because my disappointment), and the storyline is highly predictable. The characters personae (and fate) also too good to be true.

But there's something lovely about Ben and Ned...
Perhaps Brian Jacques succeeded putting magic in their personality.
I found myself craving for more story about Ben and Ned adventure,
will they meet the Flying Dutchman again?
will they ever comeback to Chapelvale?
and what about the mysterious angel?

and this is why this book deserve 2 stars.

Claire says

Read it for A challenge. Enjoyed it, but would never pick it myself. So out of the comfort zone. Nice book.
An easy read too. But not something special.

Mimi says

I have read this book a few times, but not recently.

I think it's completely delightful and a fun read. When I first read it I liked the boy and his dog angle, that they could actually communicate with each other in a way other people couldn't hear. I think if I read it now I'd read it differently, but I don't think I'd like it less.

It seems a little bit random almost, from the beginning "how they got this way" part, and then going to the "this is the main story" part, but I still enjoyed it.

I think there are two more books that go with this (? or at least one ...) I have never read them, but I would like to :)

-M

Lumaria Winters says

If you asked me what was my favorite book as a child was, you'd get this as my first answer. (Sorry, Harry Potter!) Castaways of the Flying Dutchman was the one book I'd always borrow from my school's library. This book introduced me to my love of reading and also my love of pirates.

Initially, it was the picture on the front which caught my eye. He looks like Leonardo DiCaprio in his Titanic days, which was very popular back in the 90's! However, his name is Ben. The dog you see next to him is Ned. Throughout this story and the following two books in the series, you join Ben and Ned on their epic adventures across land and sea.

Rebecca McNutt says

What a brilliantly imaginative novel! This fantasy adventure starts off simple enough, just a boy and his dog traveling - but it quickly builds up into something spectacular. If you're a fantasy fan this is definitely worth it.

Ava says

I loved it! Surprisingly, Ben didn't actually spend much time on the Flying Dutchman. And the captain was not Davy Jones like in the Pirates of the Caribbean, he was Vanderdecken, who I have never heard of. Brian Jacques is a great, descriptive writer. If you like riddles, animals, ships or sweet old ladies, this book is for you. And it was kind of religious... I wasn't expecting that. But again, I loved it.

Piepie says

I loved Brian Jacques when I was a kid. In my opinion, this is one of his best non-Redwall books, and I think it's definitely the best out of this trilogy.

This book is in three parts, and firstly Ned and Ben's story of origin is presented. You can't help but feel sorry for the poor, mute boy -- Ben -- at the beginning of the book. It's not long before this orphan finds a friend in Ned, a stray Labrador, and destiny has plans for these two, including being accidental stowaways on a pirate ship. You can feel the pitching of the ship as the waves toss it back and forth and hear the storms as their story takes you onto the pirate voyage and then later to the home of a shepherd in Tierra del Fuego.

The bulk of the book, however, takes place in the English village of Chapelvale. There is a whole cast of fun and eclectic characters here, including a sad and lonely widow lady who takes Ben and Ned in. Like Redwall, this novel contains riddles, and it's fun to solve the mysterious puzzles along with the villagers. I wish I could have tea and ice cream and lemonade with them -- they seem like a quirky and kindhearted bunch!

I read this book years ago, and it was fun to go back and revisit and travel along with Ben and his dog. There was all sorts of potential and opportunity for these two, and it's a pity this series ended after only three books.

Grace says

I was very disappointed with this book. My friend had told me about it and it sounded really cool so I got it. I'd never really been into Redwall (the very popular series by this author), but this book is very different than those, so I decided to give it a try, unfortunately it only served to remind me of all the reasons I had never finished a Redwall book.

The story is about a boy and his dog, two unfortunate beings unwillingly taken onto the Flying Dutchman(pre-curse). They are mistreated but remain strong and loyal to each other, and when the captain angers the gods and dooms the entire ship, the boy and his dog are spared because of their innocence. They get the good end of the deal and are immortal like the rest of the crew, but are allowed to leave the ship. Cool idea, right? Too bad it's about the only good thing about the book. The rest of the story is unoriginal and extremely predictable. The writing is mediocre, and the unnatural and forced dialogue makes me cringe. There was so much you could do with this idea, so many interesting stories could come from this young boy and dog who've been alive for hundreds of years, never aging, never able to stay in one place very long and never allowed to get attached to anyone. But the story is so predictable, so uninspired. The characters were flat and uninteresting, and I got attached to none of them, not even the two main characters. It's too bad that such a cool, original idea was so poorly executed.

Jordan Smith says

So as I began reading this book, I thought, "Yes! Finally! No more mushy, unrealistic stories! He's mute! He suffers and endures hardship! Death! Yay!" Then they get to shore. Ok he can talk now. He and his dog have some weird Firestorm from DC comics thing going on. The old guy dies, and now they can go off into the world doing all the things we would do if we could live forever! Spend decades learning martial arts in the mountains! Become a doctor only because you have spare time! Become a historian and write down what's happening then publish it in a 1000 years! Right?! Nope. He's going to go to boring towns and save them like

an episode of Highway to Heaven. You'd also think that around your 200th birthday, you'd stop acting like a kid. Yes, he's more mature than the average kid, blah blah blah, but so am I and I'm not 200! Also, why did the angel have him look 14? That is such an awkward age to be stuck at forever! Why couldn't he age a year every decade then stop at 25, or something like that? Then, he could do anything.

About two thirds through the book got really boring. I was juggling the dialogues of all these other characters I didn't even know or care about, and they went around solving this mystery that didn't change the book's universe in any way or matter to me. Even if he had to include the boring town and characters and treasure hunt, have the outcome have something to do with the Flying Dutchman or SOMETHING! Oh, we saved the town. Yay. So dumb. This book had a lot of potential. He could have gone to multiple different towns, traveled the world, or done something interesting. As long as it had something to do with the Flying Dutchman! It's called Castaways of the Flying Dutchman, not Michael Landon the Time Lord and Wilfred Go to Chapelvale. There's so much more to complain about, but I have to stop somewhere. I give it 2 stars only because of the chapters that actually took place on the ship and the book's potential.

Jennifer Mcfarlane says

After reading Redwall and thoroughly enjoying it, I thought this would be a good read from a good author. Instead, I was greatly disappointed. The writing was overly predictable and the storyline dragged slowly and never resolved in an original way. If you want to read a good book by this author, read Redwall--avoid this one.

Sara Parker says

I'm not as blown away by this book as I was by the Redwall series. Maybe it's because I'm reading it as an adult, but maybe it's just not as good.

I was expecting more ocean, more sailing, more boats. That lasted for approximately the first quarter. Then we hit land. It was fine until Ben and Ned moved to Chapelvale. The story grew dull. I mean, treasure hunts are supposed to be exciting, but I got bored. I didn't see the point, either. Ben and Company were trying to find a deed of ownership to save the town, and for some reason the original owner thought it would be fun to send his descendants on a scavenger hunt. If he had kept it locked in a safe place like a normal person, maybe Chapelvale wouldn't have ever been plagued by Smithers in the first place. Just a thought.

I also grew annoyed with the phonetic spelling of the characters' accents. I liked that aspect of Redwall. I skipped whole passages of this book. Overall, not Jacques' best story. We'll see if the sequel redeems it. There are more ships in that one, I hear.

Ahdom says

I had planned on reading this book after discovering it in a book store. I got it on a book swap website, after my discovery. I usually wait until summer months to read my nautical books, but I wanted a good one to take

on my trip to the Caribbean. I had read Redwall by Jacques, and I love books about piracy and sailing, so I knew this would be up my alley. However, after reading it I found out that it wasn't at all what I expected. I expected a book that took place on the sea, but what I got was a larger than life tale with supernatural beings and a treasure hunt. The book starts out in the 1600's then jumps forward to the late 1800's. The book's tonality was very similar to the Tin Tin movie that just recently came out, in fact, if this book were to be made into a film, that would be the best route to go. I loved the characters in this book, but the maturity of the book was for someone between 9 and 12. Even with that being the case, adults can thoroughly enjoy this adventure. Ben and Den are somewhat like Sam Beckett in Quantum Leap, in that they help people and are then ushered on to another place. If you enjoyed the movie Tin Tin, then this book will be a great read for you. I enjoyed this adventure, and plan to read the other two books, as well as continue reading the Redwall series.

Elizabeth says

This book averages out to three stars. I give five stars to the parts actually set on the *Flying Dutchman*. Brian Jacques' descriptions of shipboard life in the 1600s are both thrilling and terrifying. He's obviously done his research and the book's first few chapters made me want to rush out to the library and grab more books in a similar vein. (Patrick O'Brian's novels are much higher on my to-read list as a result of reading this book.)

I wish I could give five stars to the rest of the novel, too, but I'll have to stick with a mere 2 for the sections set in the rural, English town of Chapelvale. These sections were okay, but weren't nearly as good as the parts set on the ship itself. The Chapelvale characters were a bit one-dimensional and, after awhile, the book's sledge hammer moralizing (use. good. *grammar!* Read the *Bi-ble*. Bullying is *bad*.) just got old.

But *The Flying Dutchman* isn't a bad book. Jacques' keen ear for dialect is on display, here, and he demonstrates the same eye for detail (both in his descriptions of the physical setting and the personality quirks of his characters) that made the *Redwall* series great. *Castaways of the Flying Dutchman* would probably be perfect for younger readers already familiar with Jacques' previous novels.

Kamile says

I really think this book is enlightning. This book is about a boy named Neb who was found on a ship of the flying dutchman and the dutch thinks he is dead. You will find out if he is dead or not:) Also he is on a long journey. This book takes place in 1620 when pirates were alive. Neb will meet new people on the way. The rest of the book is you to read.

The book is very awesome! :) I like how the vocabulary is different from other books i HAVE READ:) I also i love the writing style it is veary unique. In this book i have learned different new vocabulary i never heard of. It was a veary nice book

Evereything else about the book was just compelling. Defintiely insightful. I would recommend it to 13 and up! :)

Philippa Dowding says

With apologies to Mr. Jacques ... this book was all over the place.

It started out well, though. The first part of this book--the Flying Dutchman part--was really great. It was actually quite terrifying, and life on board the ship was gripping and scary (and wet, and salty, and nausea-inducing).

But it's only the first quarter of the book. After Neb and Den fall overboard and wash ashore, Jacques really lost me. I wanted more than just two time-travel stories, 280 years apart. I was really hoping that he was going to have the two heroes (who make a really good team), bounce around in time, all over the world, and we'd see them every 50 years or so, doing something sweet and helpful for the downtrodden. They'd been granted immortality and wisdom by an Angel of the Lord, after all. They should have been all over the place doing good deeds (that's also what the book jacket implies).

Instead, we get two stories, and the second was much, much too long and frankly a little dull. I realize this is part one of a trilogy, so presumably there are lots more possibilities and stories to come. But as far as instalment #1 goes? I'm sorry, but I'd hoped for more.

I'm not going to read more of this series, but I AM going to read book one of the Redwall series (holy cow, 24 books? He published the last one right before he died?), which sounds terrific.

Megan says

I gave this book three stars because it's not *bad*, but my enjoyment level was more like two. I was mostly disappointed that the seafaring theme was quickly dropped; the legendary cursed Dutch ship serves only as exposition for the series. At first I thought that the protagonists (a young boy and a dog) would pop in at different locales to bring otherworldly wisdom à la Le Petit Prince, but they stick in one scenario that bored me pretty quickly. Ok for younger kids, but I just couldn't find any aspect of the story or characters that interested me.

Carrie-Anne Thomas says

This series is what started my love for stories about immortals.

Elevetha says

3 1\2 stars. I really like how you could empathize with Ben. He was a relate-able likable character. Some of the dialogue felt a little strained and trying to hard to be funny. I very much liked the idea and the characters.

Megan says

A mute teenage boy runs away from his abusive stepfather and ends up aboard the Flying Dutchman as a galley boy. The captain and his crew are all evil and greedy men, and when the captain curses God after failing to conquer the seas, an angel descends and curses the ship and the crew to forever sail the seas as an evil undead symbol of God's wrath for sinners. The boy and his dog are thrown overboard and rescued by the same angel who makes them ageless beings, destined to roam the earth forever, helping and serving their fellow men. The boy and his dog stumble across a small English town that needs their help to resist the takeover of factories. With their help, the town people may be able to solve the mysteries of their old town and ward off the big London businessmen. The boy, Ben, and the dog, Ned, are both lovable characters, and with the exciting plot, adventure, and mysteries, I really enjoyed reading this book. I would recommend this book to most audiences.
