



PIRATE PINK AND TREASURES OF THE REEF

“I’m the daughter of Redbeard, best pirate on the sea. Storm’s over. Sun’s out. I’ve treasure to find before the tide comes in.”



“Sit down, pirate daughter. Break your toast in bits. Act like a lady.” Her mother sighed and began to stitch. Pirate manners would never do.



“Ma, I’m the Pirate Pink. I’ve sailed the high seas. I’ll swing from the curtains and slash the cloth.”

“You’ll do as I say.” Ma jumped up and stamped her foot.

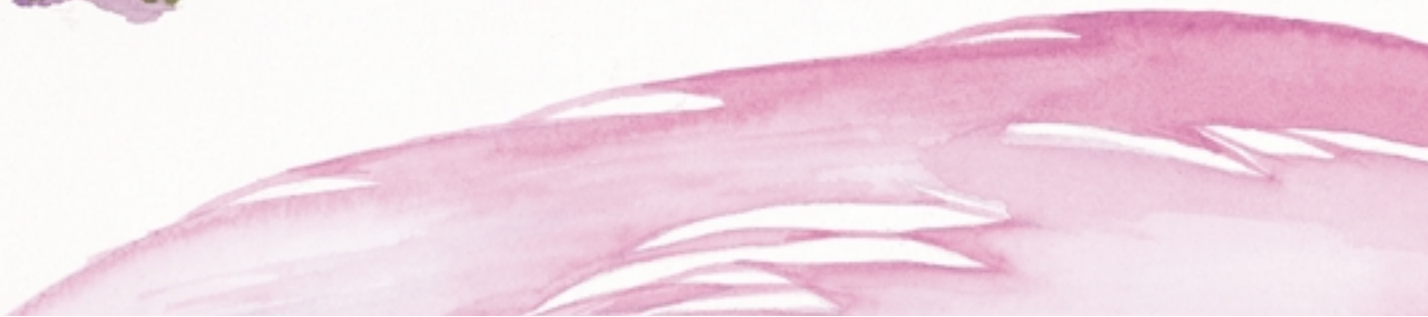


In less than a minute Pink slipped out the door. Ma banged back the shutters till the walls fairly shook. "Be home before dark," she commanded.



Pink spied her best friend, Juan. "Let's see what the storm washed in, First Mate," she called.

Juan ran after her down the path to Turtle Bay, past sea oats hissing in the wind.





“Avast ye!” cried Pink when she saw a ship atilt on the reef. A Jolly Roger rippled from the mizzen.



Juan pulled out his spyglass. “Nobody’s home,” he said. Only a seagull ruled what was left of the mast.
“Forward, men,” said Pink, swaggering into the waves.



They swam to the bow and hauled themselves over. Pink shuddered as she climbed aboard the *Barracuda*, owned by the nasty Captain Snagg.



“Where’s the treasure?” Juan shouted. “Didn’t they leave me any?” He hopped up and down. “Did they take it all?”

“In the midst of a storm?” Pink said. “I think not.”
Juan had not heard of the heartless Snagg, or he would have insisted upon jumping ship.





“I’ll take a quick dive,” Pink said to Juan, “to see what lies below.”

“Me too!” cried Juan. But then he spotted gold coins on the deck. “Aha! I’ll keep watch,” he said and began stuffing his pockets.



It was growing late. Pink would have to hurry or Ma would be worried. Down she dove into the clear blue water, down as far as her breath would hold.

Wowie, she thought. Treasure chests spilled across the ocean floor. A jeweled bowl, rubies, and coins littered the reef. A queen angelfish watched over her. Its fin shone brighter than any doubloon.