

THE PIRATE'S CHOICE

by

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Based on a true story.

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FADE IN:

EXT. LONDON - BACK ALLEY - DAY (1702)

Two 11-year-olds wield sticks as swords. JIMMO, mop-head wig, tricorn hat, chases shirtless MATTY toward a dead-end.

JIMMO

Mathias Read, you'll hang for your
piracies!

Matty leaps atop empty stacked barrels and crates.

MATTY

Come up and fight like a man!

Jimmy climbs up... Matty dominates in a fierce "sword" fight until a broken crate entraps Matty. Jimmo points his stick.

JIMMO

Surrender, ye villain.

As victorious Jimmo laughs, Matty reaches for a small hidden keg labeled "gunPOWder," strikes a match and leaps up.

MATTY

Avast!

Jimmo stops as if in mortal danger from the harmless keg.

MATTY

The entire ship's goin' to blazes--

A wave of water pours down, soaks Matty and Jimmo.

Above, busty RACHEL leans out a window with an empty basin.

RACHEL

Time to empty the piss pot!

Scared, Jimmo runs off, stunning Matty. A tear forms.

A shirt flies out the window, lands on Matty's face.

RACHEL

Cover them feathers, child. And
wipe them moll tears. Ya want your
dead brother's inheritance or
not?... Or maybe it's time I call
ya Mary and send ya on your way!

The window slams shut.

Matty wipes her face with the shirt. Picks up her stick... Grins. She swooshes it like a sword. She's all boy.

FADE OUT.