

*The Pirates of Penzance*

They may honour them who please.

**ALL.** Let us gaily tread the measure, etc.

**KATE.** What a picturesque spot! I wonder where we are!

**EDITH.** And I wonder where Papa is. We have left him ever so far behind.

**ISABEL.** Oh, he will be here presently! Remember poor Papa is not as young as we are, and we came over a rather difficult country.

**KATE.** But how thoroughly delightful it is to be so entirely alone! Why, in all probability we are the first human beings who ever set foot on this enchanting spot.

**ISABEL.** Except the mermaids – it's the very place for mermaids.

**KATE.** Who are only human beings down to the waist!

**EDITH.** And who can't be said strictly to set *foot* anywhere. Tails they may, but feet they *cannot*.

**KATE.** But what shall we do until Papa and the servants arrive with the luncheon?

**EDITH.** We are quite alone, and the sea is as smooth as glass. Suppose we take off our shoes and stockings and paddle?

**ALL.** Yes, yes! The very thing!

*They prepare to carry, out the suggestion. They have all taken off one shoe, when FREDERIC comes forward from cave.*

**FRED.** (*recitative*) Stop, ladies, pray!

**GIRLS.** (*Hopping on one foot.*) A man!

**FRED.** I had intended

Not to intrude myself upon your notice  
In this effective but alarming costume;  
But under these peculiar circumstances,  
It is my bounden duty to inform you  
That your proceedings will not be unwitnessed!

**EDITH.** But who are you, sir? Speak! (*All hopping.*)

**FRED.** I am a pirate!

**GIRLS.** (*recoiling, hopping*) A pirate! Horror!

**FRED.** Ladies, do not shun me!

This evening I renounce my vile profession;  
And, to that end, O pure and peerless maidens!  
Oh, blushing buds of ever-blooming beauty!  
I, sore at heart, implore your kind assistance.

**EDITH.** How pitiful his tale!

**KATE.** How rare his beauty!

**GIRLS.** How pitiful his tale! How rare his beauty!

**SONG – FREDERIC.**

**FRED.** Oh, is there not one maiden breast  
Which does not feel the moral beauty  
Of making worldly interest  
Subordinate to sense of duty?  
Who would not give up willingly  
All matrimonial ambition,