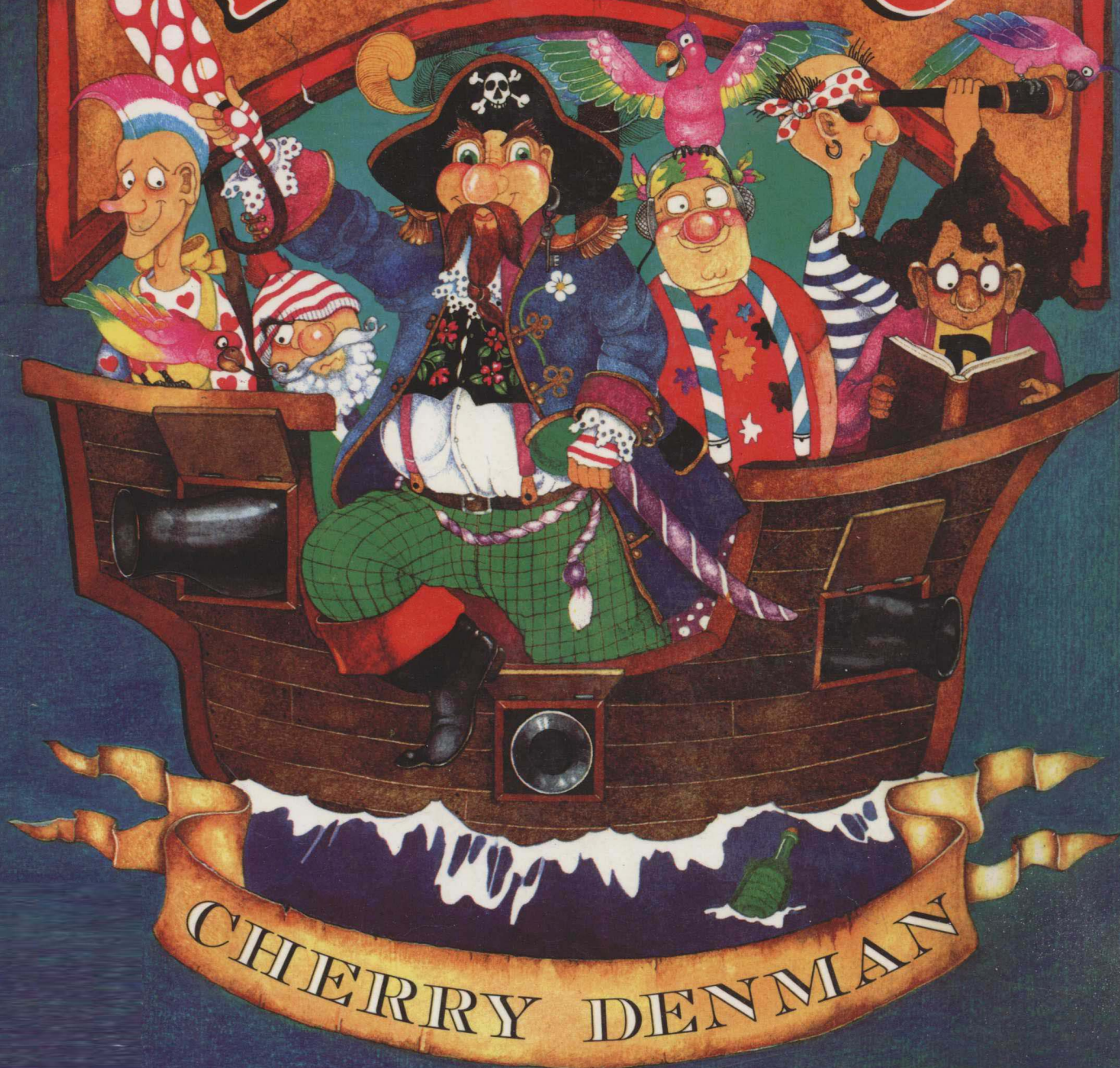


PIRATES





*For Lucy Parton
and Mother Bacon*

Also available by Cherry Denman, and published by
Picture Corgi Books: THE LITTLE PEACOCK'S GIFT

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Pirates



Cherry Denman

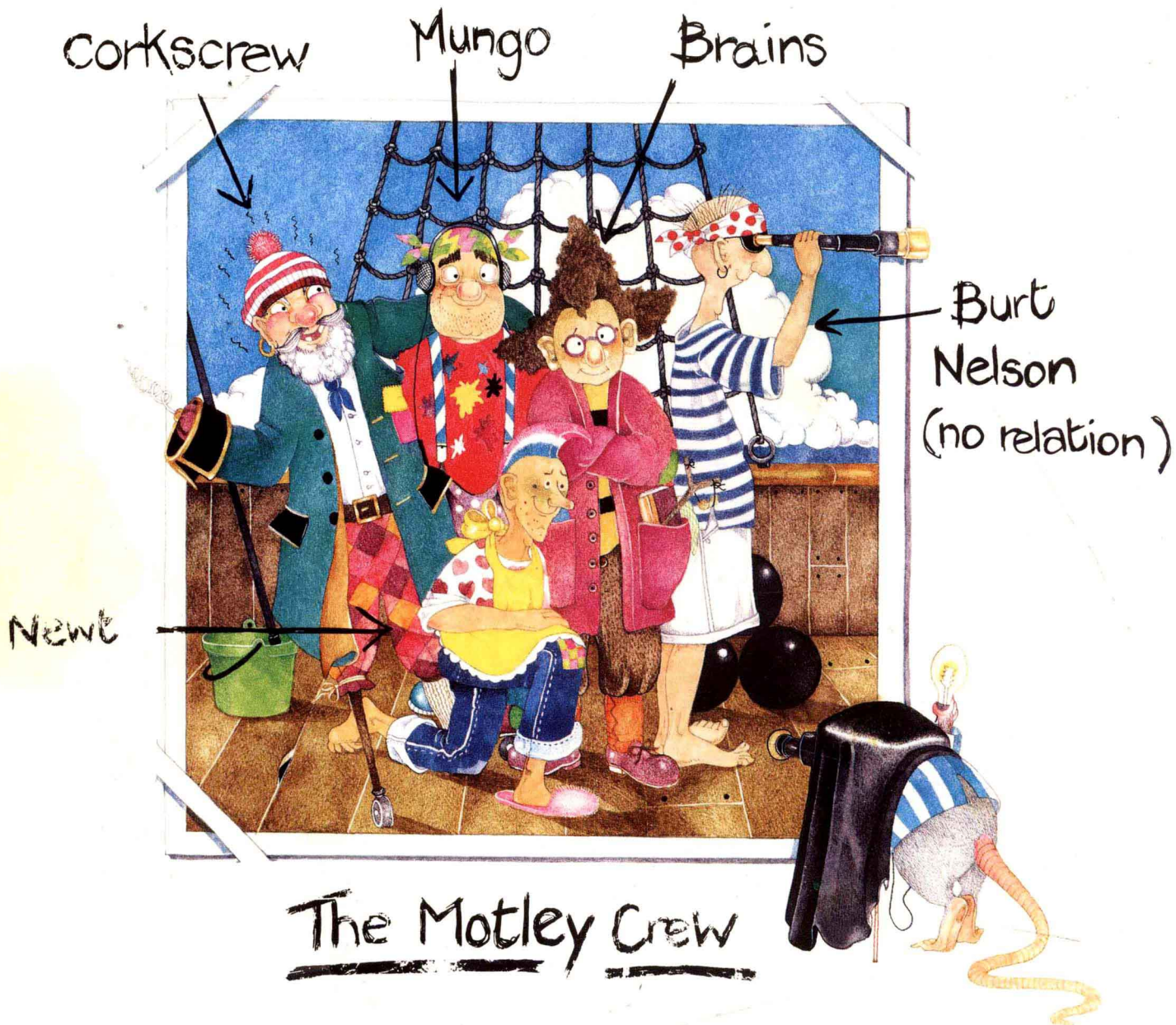
Cherry Denman



PICTURE CORGI BOOKS

Captain Enoch P Nuts was a ferocious, red-haired Pirate who sailed the seven seas in his leaky, creaky vessel, the Good Ship Muck Bucket.

His crew were very, very ugly which was a good thing as they weren't fierce at all. Everybody ran away because they were such a sight to behold—and they didn't wash very often.





Frankly, they were *hopeless* Pirates. Not only were they too soft hearted, they were no good at finding treasure. Instead of finding gold and precious stones, they had found chests full of rubber bands, boxes of bananas and five hundred pairs of woolly socks bound for the King of Togo.

‘What’s worse,’ said Brains, ‘is that there are no more pieces of eight in the bank.’

‘NUTS!’ said Captain Enoch.



And then, one morning, a very interesting piece of news fell into their hands.

‘Suliman the Slimy,’ read Brains who was the only one who could, ‘the Evil Pasha of Cockanbull—is expecting the arrival of his treasure ship. It bears a precious gift for his only daughter’s birthday.’



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Suliman the Slimy-P and Kofta Kebab

Pasha's Treasure Ship Carryin'
for Princess Marsala

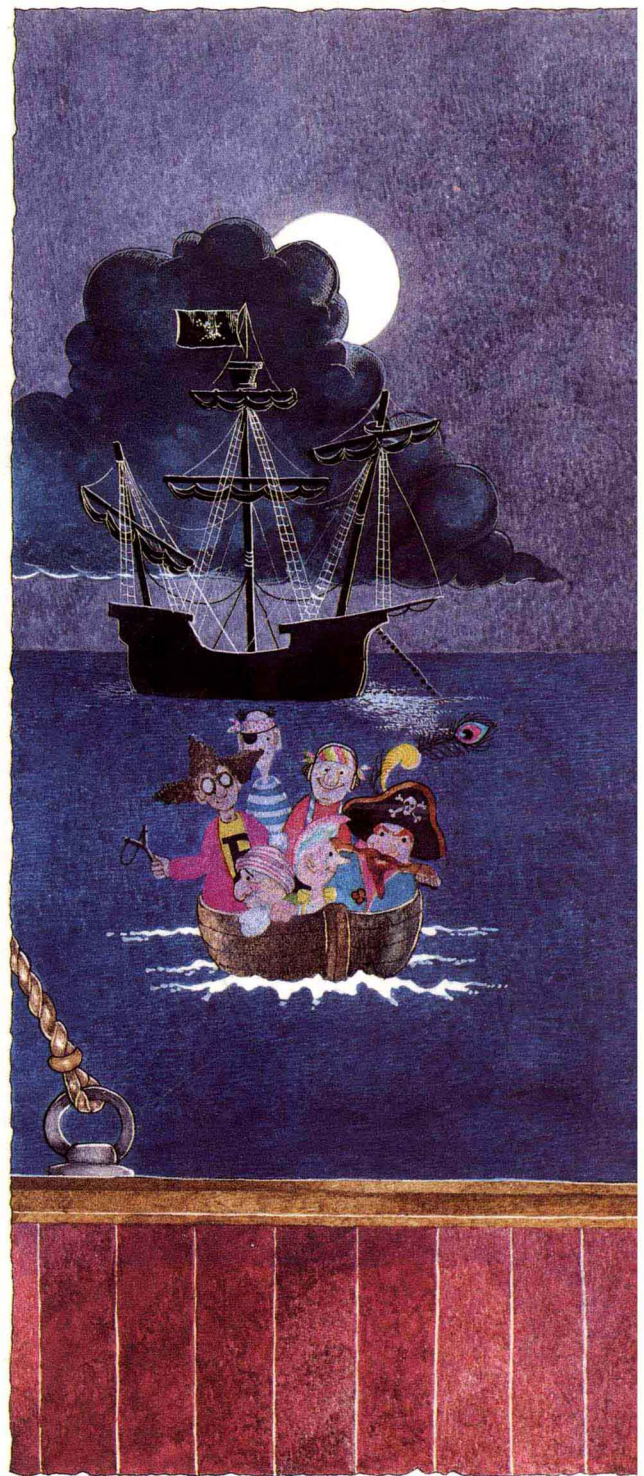
'Aaaargh!' yelled the Motley Crew. 'We smell treasure!'

'Aaargh!' yelled Mungo who had no idea what they were talking about, but he liked a party.

'Come on, me hearties!' yelled Captain Nuts. 'Man the boats, men, we're off to battle!'



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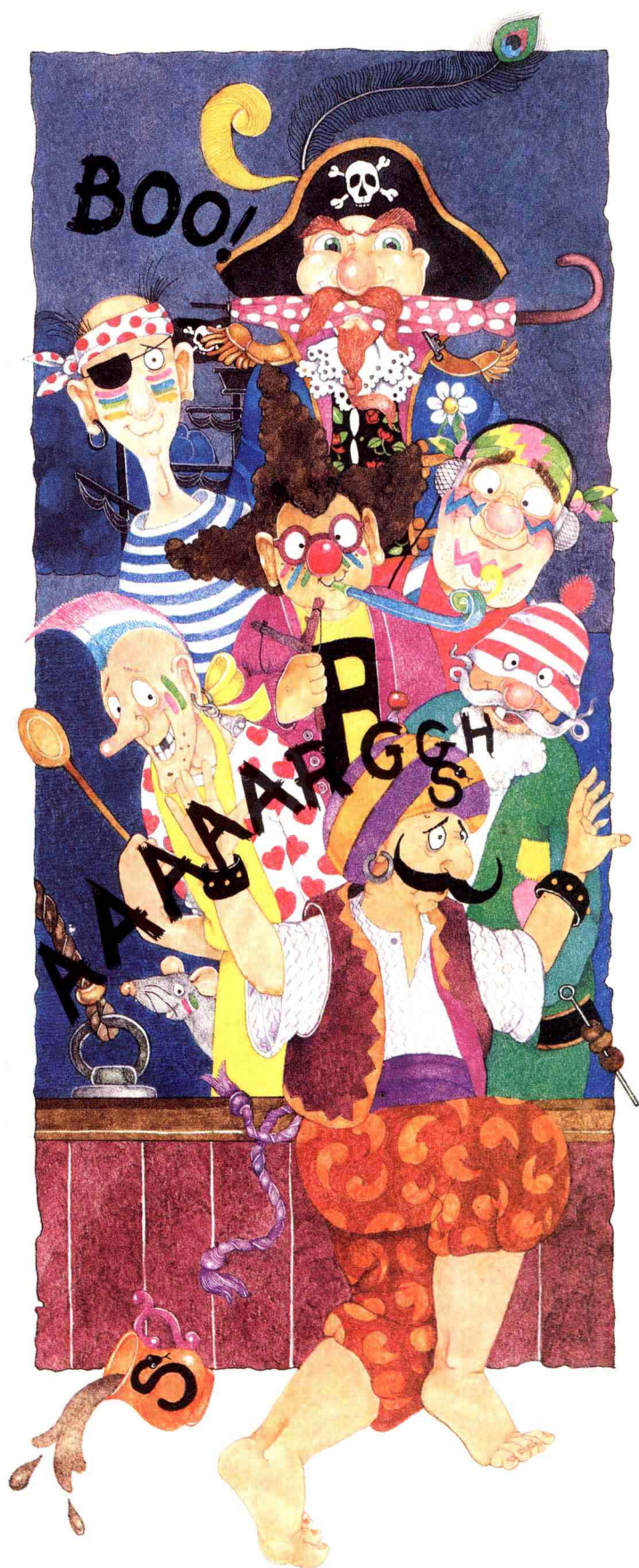


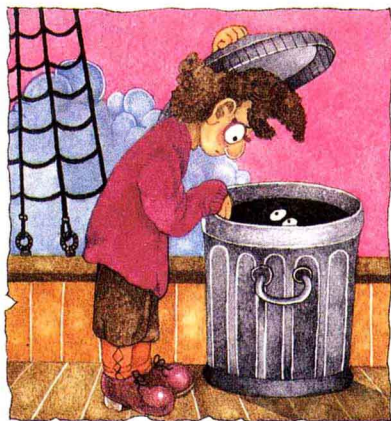
And so, in the dead of night, they crept up on Suliman the Slimy's unsuspecting treasure ship.

The sailors were so appalled by the revolting faces of the Extremely Ugly Crew that they turned on their heels and jumped overboard.



‘Come on, me hearties!’ cried Captain P Nuts. ‘Let’s go and seek out the treasure!’





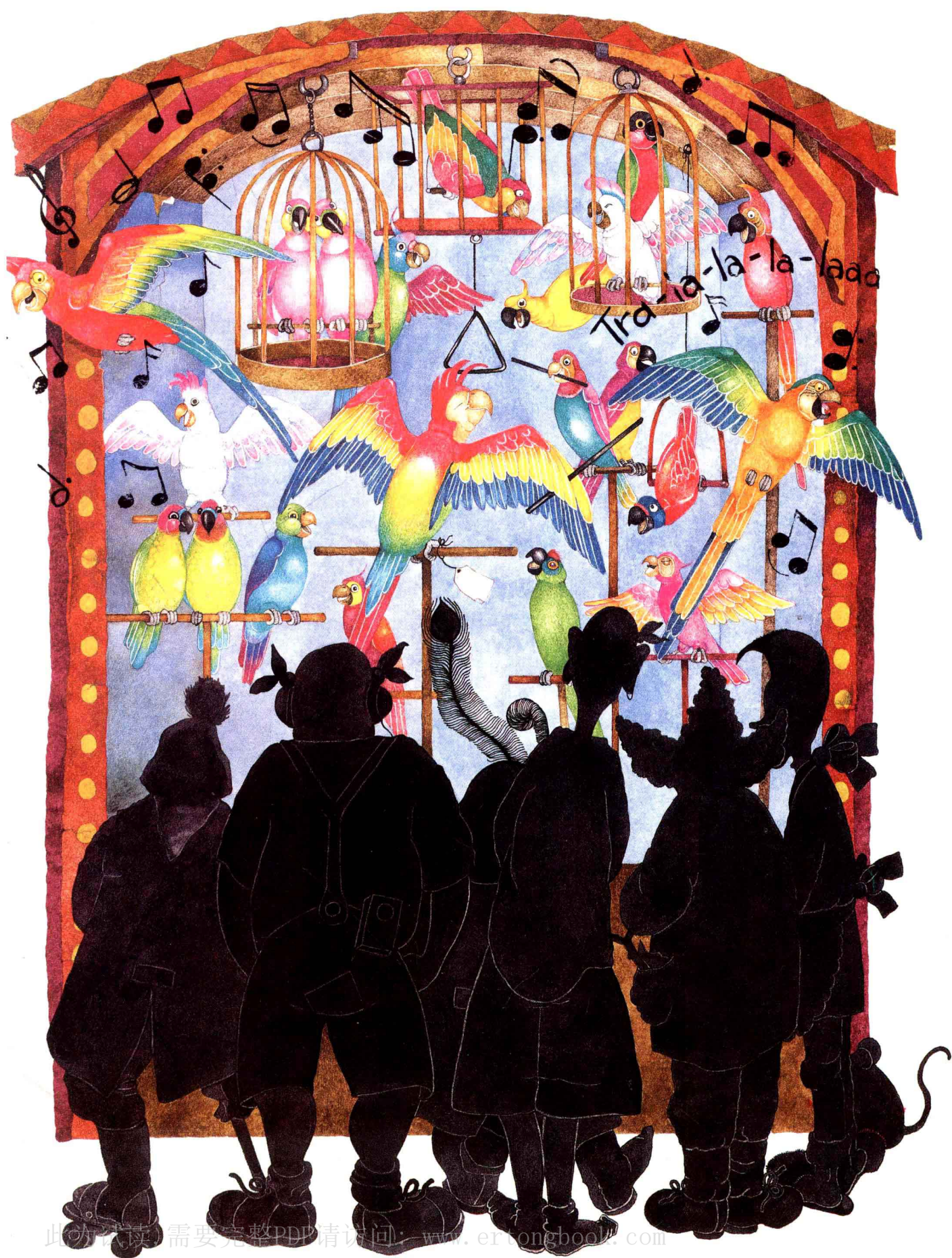
The Revolving Crew searched in all the most obvious places—but they couldn't find any treasure at all.

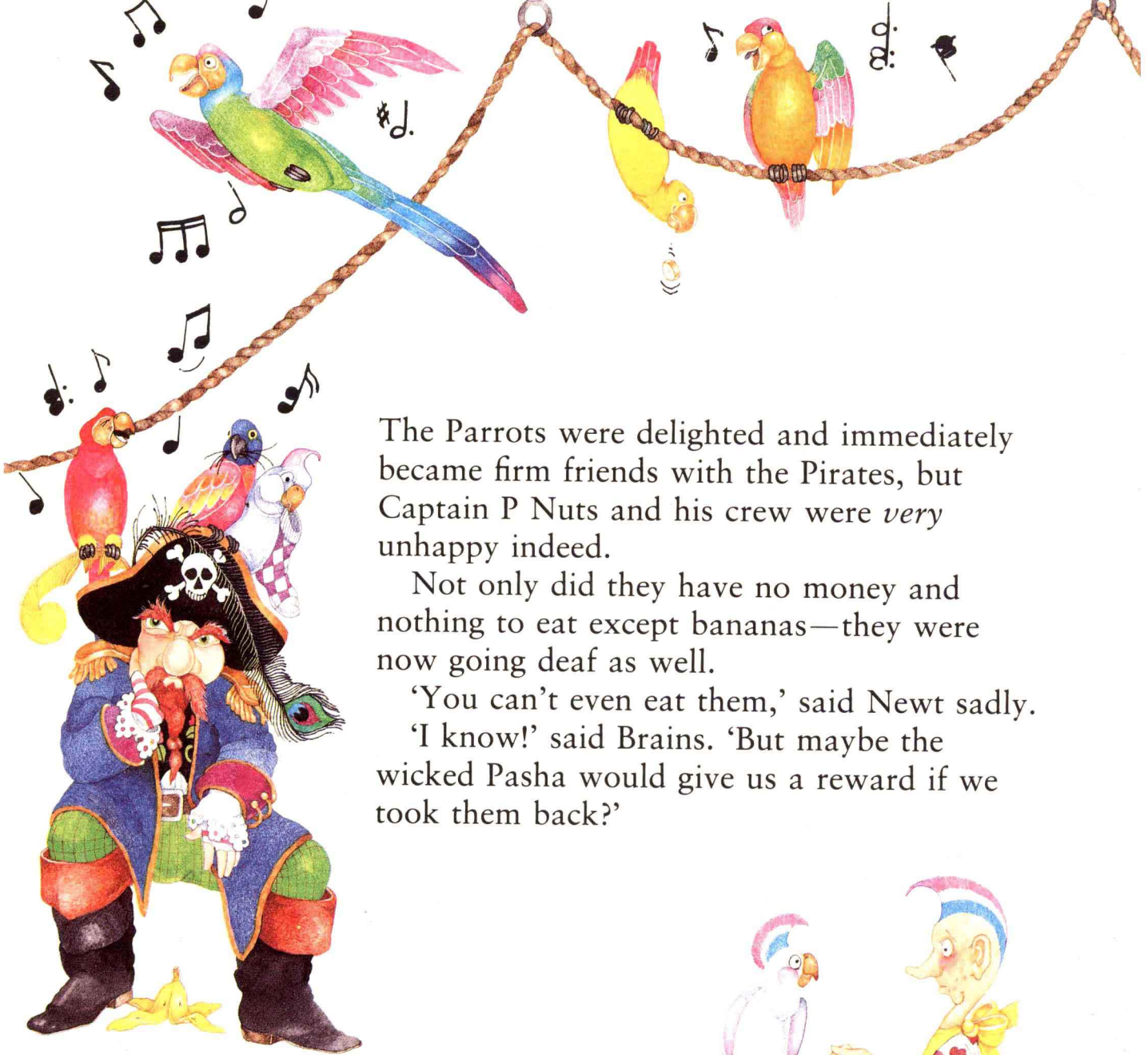
At last they found a large door marked KEEP OUT.

'Break it down, Mungo,' said Newt, who was getting rather excited. But the Princess Marsala's birthday present was not a casket of jewels. Neither was it a large chest of gold sovereigns. It was not even a small bag of loose change. It was an entire orchestra of performing musical parrots.

'NUTS!' said Captain Enoch.








The Parrots were delighted and immediately became firm friends with the Pirates, but Captain P Nuts and his crew were *very* unhappy indeed.

Not only did they have no money and nothing to eat except bananas—they were now going deaf as well.

‘You can’t even eat them,’ said Newt sadly.

‘I know!’ said Brains. ‘But maybe the wicked Pasha would give us a reward if we took them back?’





'Good idea, Brains. We will set sail at once for Cockanbull,' yelled the Captain over the din, 'and give these horrible birds back to Suliman the Slimy.'

'Aaaahaaar!' answered the Revolting Crew.





Meanwhile in Cockanbull Castle, Suliman the Slimy was beside himself with rage.

‘S-s-s-slithering, s-s-squirming, s-s-s-snakepits!’ he hissed.

‘S-s-something must be done—I want this-s-s Captain P Nuts-s-s-s, and when I have him I will feed him to the s-s-s-snakes. Verrry, verrry s-s-s-slowly.’

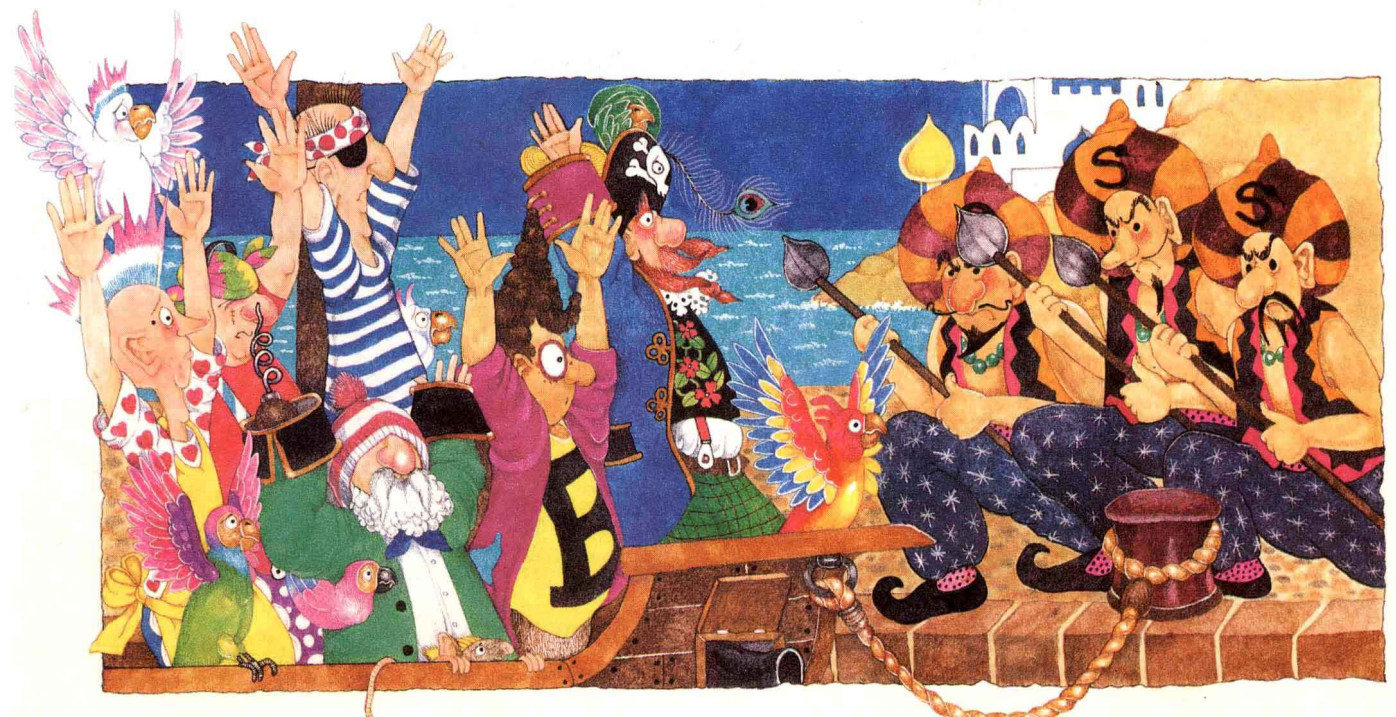


And so it was that when the Good Ship Muck Bucket sailed into Cockanbull Harbour, Captain Enoch and the entire motley crew were arrested and thrown into the castle dungeons:

‘I wonder what the food will be like?’ asked Newt, nervously.

‘NUTS!’ said Captain Enoch.

‘Oh well,’ said Mungo, ‘makes a change from bananas.’





Suliman the Slimy was simply delighted to have his musical parrots back and to celebrate their return he threw an enormous banquet for all his subjects.

‘Bring on my beautiful birds-s-s,’ Suliman hissed. ‘They shall s-sing for my daughter, the Princess-s-s Mars-s-sala.’

And he clapped his hands for the birds to begin.

But the Parrots did not like the wicked Pasha of Cockanbull and were very upset at the capture of their Pirate friends.

And so they refused to sing. Their beaks remained very firmly shut.

