

The Humorous Ballad of Brennan the Pirate

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Let me tell you a story lads
A story of courage and honor true
Let me tell you the story of Brennan
An orphan of honor, yet a pirate too

Abandoned by parents
And long left for dead
He was picked up by pirates
A price on their head

T'was a life cold and hard
Certainly vicious enough
But t'was all Brennan knew—
How to plunder and stuff

'Til one fateful day
A dreadful storm did roll in
Brennan's ship tossed and turned
Carried round by the wind

It was dashed on the rocks
Cut to pieces and gone
There was one sole survivor
Pirate Brennan lived on

He was found by a family
One of good heart and pure
They nursed him to health
Plenty of rest was his cure

They showed him naught but kindness
Brennan did not know what to do
He'd been raised his whole life as a pirate
T'was awful and cruel, but all that he knew

This family showed him more
They showed him honor and love
They showed him kindness and beauty
They taught him of God up above

Brennan vowed to change his ways
To live a life of good
To live a life of honor
To live the way he should

But trouble was brewing for Brennan
Coming in from a westerly path
Cutthroat Crandall's ship was coming
And no one dared fight *The Mourner's Wrath*

Cutthroat was headed straight for Blackford
The town where Brennan had landed
He was headed, set to destroy
This life Brennan had been handed

Brennan was determined to save
This family he now held so dear
He left to infiltrate Cutthroat's crew
To once again drink whiskey and beer

Whispers began to fly
When the town saw Brennan vamoose
Whispers that he was a pirate
They would all see him hang from the noose

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“He cannot change his stripes” they cried
“You were foolish to even try”
When his new family stood up to defend him
The town simply could not see why

But by now faithful Brennan had learned
Of the plans that Cutthroat had laid
His plans to set on the town
To plunder and murder and raid

He won vicious Cutthroat’s trust
And he offered to go on ahead
He said that he knew this town
Every home, every inn, every bed

He took a small skiff to the shore
He shouted and pleaded and begged
He told the town to leave
To pack up, move on, shake a leg

But the town refused to listen
They looked down with disgust and derision
“He is after our homes” they cried out
And they made a unanimous decision

To run Brennan out of the town
“We cannot trust this cad!
Once a pirate always a pirate
His heart is black and his soul is bad!”

Only Brennan’s family would listen
They staunchly showed their trust
“We’ll follow your lead” they determined
“We’ll turn those pirates to dust.”

“We cannot defeat them with might.
We’ll trick them into surrender.”
So Brennan analyzed and thought long and hard
Of what could possibly be a game-ender

He saw the cliffs by the village
His plan came to him in a flash
The rocks pounding down in the ocean
Could simulate a cannon’s loud crash

The Mourner’s Wrath came in
It docked itself on the bay
Cutthroat Crandall called out to Brennan
“Let us now commence the melee!”

But Brennan stayed out on the shore
“Surrender or die!” he stood firm
Cutthroat laughed, a harsh, dead sound
A sound that made the bravest men squirm

“And why would we turn over to you?
A man not worth my spit.
A man with no family or honor.
A man with no gumption or grit.”

“I’ve got you surrounded Cutthroat.
There’s many a ship you must fight
If you test me, you’ll live to regret
This day you did not take flight

“Prove it,” Cutthroat maliciously grinned
“Before I blow you to bits.
Prove your preposterous claim.
I see now where your loyalty sits.”

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Then Brennan gave his family the signal
To let loose the rocks he had set
They clattered and fell in the ocean
Did it sound like cannons? You bet!

Cutthroat's face showed a look of shock
The anger turning him fiercely red
"Be prepared to die you traitor!
I'll personally take off your head!"

He raged down off his ship
His crew quickly following suit
Brennan fled to higher ground
Cutthroat's men in close pursuit

They paid no mind to their ship
They didn't see people climb aboard
Their sole goal was to get to Brennan
To kill him, add his skull to their hoard

Brennan held his ground
Fighting pirates as they came
Knowing he couldn't survive
But fighting to save his family all the same

A noise came from the village
Cutthroat looked up in consternation
Masses were coming from the town
They looked like groupies from
AWOLNATION

"SAIL!" He cried to his crew
"An army is coming in fast!
Retreat, retreat to the ship.
Or this fight just may be our last!"

But his ship had been overrun
With Brennan's family, true and brave
They pointed the guns at the pirates
Their new kin they knew they must save

"Surrender now or die,"
Brennan, wounded, still stood tall
"I told you I had an army
Ready at my beck and call."

With a face full of malice and hate
Cutthroat threw down his sword on the sand
"You've won this time my friend,
We'll submit to this, your demand."

Brennan took up the sword of the pirate
"We've defeated the scurvy knaves!
We've conquered the dastardly villains
They'll never have us for slaves!"

"Three cheers for Brennan!" they cried
"Why, he's not a pirate at all!
He's a man full of honor and truth.
A man who deserves to stand tall."

Word spread through the country like fire
Of the man who took Cutthroat down
And Brennan, his family and honor,
They were the toast of his town

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King Richard himself came to see
This orphan, this pirate turned man
He heaped him with praise and reward
“I’ll make him a knight,” he began

“Sir Brennan the Honorable Pirate
Let it be a title that you proudly wear
To protect your country and family
Be the vow that this day you swear.”

Brennan took upon him that vow
And by doing so found his true place
No longer an orphan
No longer a pirate
But a hero of the human race