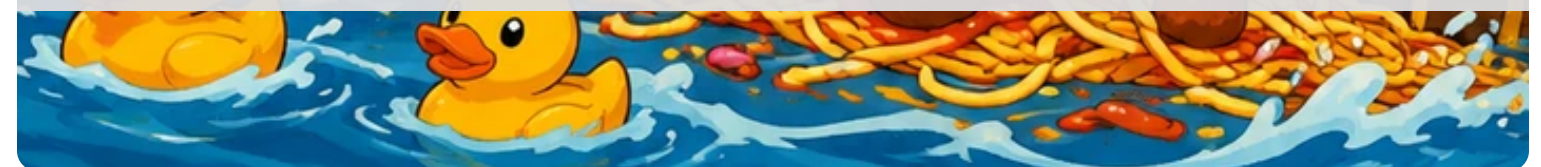




Captain Barnaby's Silly Treasure Hunt

Jack Ayton





Captain Barnaby Butter-Bottom stands on the deck of his ship, the Silly Seagull, wearing a pirate hat that is much too big for his head. He holds a treasure map drawn on a messy dinner napkin and points toward the horizon with a long wooden spoon.



When the crew tries to pull up the anchor, they discover it has turned into a giant, heavy chocolate donut. The pirates have to eat their way through the delicious anchor before the ship can finally sail away into the blue waves.



The ship arrives at Tickle Island, where the palm trees are made of giant, fluffy pink feathers. Every time the wind blows, the feathers tickle the pirates' noses, making the whole crew sneeze and giggle uncontrollably.



Barnaby finds a buried chest under a sparkly palm tree and flips the lid open with excitement. Instead of gold coins, the chest is overflowing with hundreds of squeaky yellow rubber ducks that bounce all over the sandy beach.



Suddenly, a giant pink octopus rises from the waves, looking very serious. But instead of being scary, the octopus pulls out a tiny pair of glasses and asks if anyone wants to play a game of hide-and-seek among the coral.



At lunchtime, the pirate cook accidentally serves a giant bowl of wiggly-wobbly spaghetti. The noodles are so long and slippery that the pirates end up tangled together in a big, happy knot of pasta and laughter.



They follow a trail of glowing bubbles into a secret cave filled with magical mirrors. The mirrors make Captain Barnaby look as tall as a ship's mast and the crew look as round and bouncy as beach balls.



The final X on the map leads them to a giant sandbox shaped like a star. They dig together and find a treasure chest filled with shiny golden coins that turn out to be yummy milk chocolates wrapped in gold foil.



To celebrate their discovery, the pirates throw a grand dance party on the deck of the Silly Seagull. The giant octopus plays the drums on the side of the ship with all eight arms while everyone does the wobbly-legged pirate jig.



As the sun sets and the moon rises like a giant lemon slice, Captain Barnaby tucks his tired crew into their cozy hammocks. He reads them a bedtime story about the bravest little pirates in the world before they all drift off to sleep.