

CONTENTS

- 4-5 About this book
- 6-7 Calm seas
- 8-9 Rat catching
- 10-11 Watch duty
- 12-13 Trickery
- 14-15 Attack!
- 16-17 The battle
- 18-19 Looting
- 20-21 The prisoners
- 22-23 Desert Island
- 24-25 Feasting
- 26-27 A storm brews
- 28-29 Drifting
- 30-31 Glossary
- 32 Index

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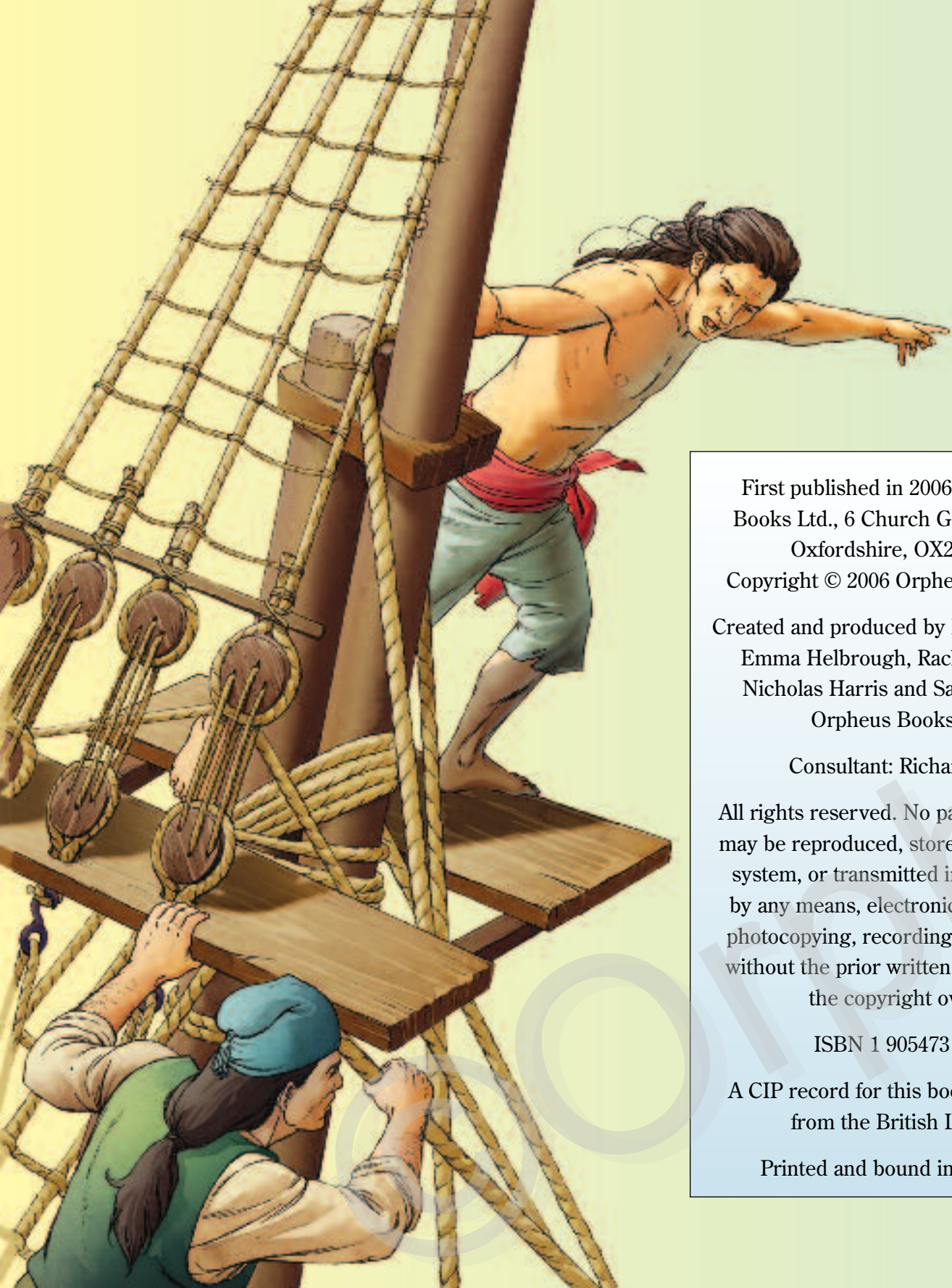
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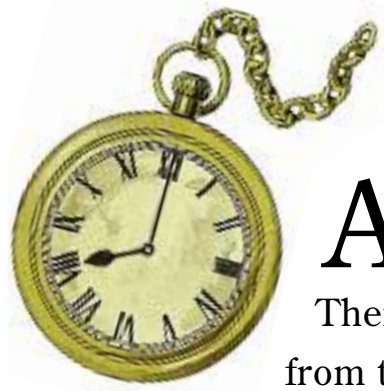
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RATCATCHING

After a breakfast of stale ship's biscuits, Jack goes down to the stores to fetch some flour for the cook.

There is a foul smell of chicken muck from the chicken coop, rotting fish and stagnant water that has seeped in through cracks and gathered at the bottom of the ship in the bilge. The stores are crammed with barrels of fresh water and beer, bags of biscuits and dried meat, as well as spare timber and sails.

A squealing pig scurries past Jack, closely followed by Mark, the carpenter, who explains that rats must have chewed through the pigs' ropes. The pair set about clubbing the rats, who not only eat their food, but also cause all kinds of damage to the ship. They manage to kill 32 rats before catching the pigs and returning the stores to order.

