



LIBRETTO by W.S. Gilbert  
ADAPTED by Diane Garton Edie

Cast (in order of stage appearance):

PIRATES, WARDS, and CONSTABLES

Ruth

Pirate King/Major General

Frederic

Mabel

STUDENT CHORUS

mezzo-soprano

baritone

tenor

soprano

Please note: Text in italics is sung; **any text in boldface applies to CHORUS**; student roles are **CAPITALIZED**; **stage directions are in blue**. Underlined and numbered words can be found in the Student Handbook Glossary.

🎵 Follow along with the Cast Recording! [Pirates Cast Recording](#)

---

## Act One

---

🎵 [Track #1](#) Copyright Notification

🎵 [Track #2](#) Overture

🎵 [Track #3](#)

**PIRATES:**

**Come, let's celebrate, be merry;  
Cheer, Oh Cheer the birthday boy;  
Sing and let our voices carry,  
We are proud and filled with joy.**

Ruth:

For today our pirate 'prentice  
Rises from indentures freed;  
Strong his arm, and keen his scent is -  
He's a pirate now indeed!

Ruth/King:

Here's good luck to Fred'ric's ventures!

Fred'ric's out of his indentures.

**PIRATES:**

**Come, let's celebrate, be merry;  
Cheer, Oh Cheer the birthday boy;  
Sing and let our voices carry,  
We are proud and filled with joy...Hurrah!**

🎵 [Track #4](#)

King:

Yes, Frederic, from today you rank as a full-blown  
member of our pirate band.

**PIRATES/Ruth:  
Hurrah!**

Frederic:

My friends, I thank you all, from my heart, for your kindly  
wishes. Unfortunately, I cannot accept your offer.

King:  
What do you mean?

Frederic:  
Today I am 21 and no longer your apprentice -  
therefore, today I leave you all forever.

King:  
But, never has there been a youth more skilled in the  
pirate ways!

Frederic:  
Yes, I know - I have done my best for you - and, why? It  
was my duty under my indentures, and, I am the slave  
of duty! When I was only 8 years old I was promised  
to your band - to learn, to serve...and I have done that -  
though it was never meant to be. You see, it all began as  
an error.

King:  
An error? What error?

Frederic:  
Never mind. I must not tell you. (looks at Ruth) It  
wouldn't be polite.

Ruth:  
Nay, dear master, the secret has been weighing heavily  
on my mind - better have it out at once.

 Track #5

Ruth:  
When Fred'ric was a little lad he proved so brave and  
daring,  
His father thought he'd 'prentice him to some career  
seafaring.  
I was, alas! his nurserymaid, and so it fell to my lot  
To take and bind the promising boy apprentice to a  
pilot.  
A life not bad for a hardy lad, though surely not a high  
lot,  
Though I'm a nurse, you might do worse  
than make your boy a pilot!

I was a stupid nurs'rymaid on breakers always steering,  
And I did not catch the word aright, through being hard  
of hearing.  
Mistaking my instructions, which within my brain did  
gyrate,

I took and bound this promising boy apprentice to a  
pirate.  
A sad mistake it was to make and doom him to a vile lot.  
I bound him to a pirate - you - instead of to a pilot.

 Track #6

Ruth:  
So, I've stood by Frederic all these years and become a  
pirate me self- working alongside you rascals.

**PIRATES:**  
**Aaaarr!**

Frederic:  
Aye, dear Ruth, and a merry band we've been!  
Nevertheless, today my life as a pirate is over! (to  
pirates) As friends, I love each one of you with affection  
unspeakable; but, as pirates, I look upon you with  
absolute disgust!

**PIRATES/Ruth:**  
**(sharp intake of breath)**

Frederic:  
Furthermore, as I am no longer a pirate but a law-  
abiding citizen, I feel it is now my duty to devote myself,  
heart and soul, to your extermination.

King:  
Well, Frederic, if you conscientiously feel it is your duty  
to destroy us, we cannot blame you. Always follow your  
conscience.

Ruth:  
But, lad, how sorely you'll be missed! Indeed, I do not  
know if we can go on without you - why, one of you is  
worth ten of them.

**PIRATES:**  
**Aaaarr!**

Frederic:  
It need not be true. Since I am still a pirate for an hour or  
two, it is my duty to tell you what I believe: the Pirates of  
Penzance are simply too tenderhearted! Why, you never  
attack a ship with orphans onboard.

King:  
Of course not! We are all orphans ourselves, and know

what it is!

**PIRATES:**  
(sad) Aaaaarr!

Frederic:

Yes, but everyone has learned that, and what is the result? Each ship we capture is filled with sailors claiming to be orphans, so we always let them go! Bad practice for pirates.

Ruth:

(to King and Pirates) Do you see how clever he is about these matters? Oh, Frederic, do not leave us!

**PIRATES:**  
**Oh Frederic, do not leave us!**

Frederic:

I must...but, why don't all of you come with me? By my honor, join me in civilization! (to King) Take my hand!

King:

I'll gladly take your hand - but only as a fond farewell.

Frederic:

But...

King:

No, Frederic, I shall live and die a Pirate King!

 Track #7

King:

Oh, better far to live and die  
Under the brave black flag I fly,  
Than play a sanctimonious part,  
With a pirate head and a pirate heart.  
Away to the cheating world go you,  
Where pirates all are well-to-do;  
But I'll be true to the song I sing,  
And live and die a Pirate King,  
For I am a Pirate King!

**PIRATES/Ruth/Frederic:**  
**You are! Hurrah for the Pirate King!**

King:

And it is, it is a glorious thing to be a Pirate King!  
For I am a Pirate King!

**PIRATES/Ruth/Frederic:**  
**You are! Hurrah for the Pirate King!**

King:

And it is, it is a glorious thing to be a Pirate King!

**PIRATES/Ruth/Frederic:**

**It is! Hurrah for the Pirate King! Hurrah for the Pirate King!**

 Track #8

Ruth:

Oh, Frederic, what shall you do? Piracy is all you've ever known!

Frederic:

Ruth, I am a man now. It is time to find my way in the world.

Ruth:

But you'll need help - and I cannot leave the pirates - you know they all depend on me to manage things - who will care for you?

Frederic:

Hmmm - a wife! Yes - I shall become respectable.

Ruth:

A wife...respectability...oh Frederic, you are but a lad!  
(pinches cheek, tickles)

Frederic:

Please, Ruth.

Ruth:

Very well, but I shall remain a pirate, and find others to take your place - fare thee well, my boy! (exits)

Frederic:

Ah me. How shall I begin my new life? (music begins)

 Track #9

Frederic:

Who's that?

(Enter Mabel with WARDS.)

Mabel:  
 Climbing over rocky mountain, Skipping rivulet and fountain,  
 Passing where the willows quiver,  
 Passing where the willows quiver, by the ever-rolling river,  
 Swollen with the summer rain, the summer rain;  
 Threading long and leafy mazes Dotted with unnumbered daisies,  
 Dotted, dotted with unnumbered daisies;  
 Scaling rough and rugged passes,  
 Climb the hardy lads and lasses,  
 Till the bright seashore they gain!

 Track #10

Mabel:  
 What a beautiful spot! I wonder where we are? Well, no matter - we are quite alone, and the sea is as smooth as glass...I'm going to take off my shoes and stockings and paddle!

Frederic:  
 Stop, madam, pray.

Mabel:  
 A man!

Frederic:  
 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.

Mabel:  
 But who are you, sir? Speak!

Frederic:  
 I am a pirate!

Mabel:  
 A pirate! Heavens!

Frederic:  
 Please, oh do not shun me!  
 This evening I have quit my old profession;  
 if you would help me lads and gentle lasses  
 Oh gen'rous friends, be sympathetic list'ners.  
 I sore at heart, I, sore at heart, now beg your kind assistance.

Mabel:  
 How pitiful his tale! How rare his beauty!

 Track #11

Frederic:  
 Oh, is there not one maiden here who does not feel the moral beauty of making sadness disappear by promising her loving duty?  
 She would now give up willingly all matrimonial ambition,  
 To rescue such a one as I from his unfortunate position?  
 Alas, there's not one maiden here who seems to feel the moral beauty of making sadness disappear by promising her loving duty!  
 Not one? No, no - not one! Not one? No, no!

Mabel:  
 Yes, one! 'Tis Mabel! Yes, 'tis Mabel!

 Track #12

Mabel:  
 Poor wand'ring one! Tho' thou hast surely stray'd,  
 Take heart of grace, Thy steps retrace, Poor wand'ring one!  
 Poor wand'ring one! If such poor love as mine  
 Can help thee find true peace of mind, why, take it, it is thine!

**CHORUS:**  
**Take heart, fair days will shine; take heart, fair days will shine.**

Mabel:  
 Take heart, fair days will shine; take any heart - take mine!

**CHORUS:**  
**Take heart, fair days will shine; take heart, fair days will shine.**

Mabel:  
 Take heart, fair days will shine; take any heart - take mine!  
 Ah!  
 Poor wand'ring one! Tho' thou hast surely stray'd,  
 Take heart of grace, Thy steps retrace, Poor wand'ring one!

**CHORUS:**

Take heart, fair days will shine; take heart, fair days will shine.

Mabel:  
Ah! Take heart!

Mabel:  
So...

Frederic:  
Frederic

Mabel:  
So, Frederic, you are a pirate?

Frederic:  
WAS a pirate, madam, one of the legendary Pirates of Penzance.

Mabel:  
Oh!

Frederic:  
But, no longer - I am a free man today, and I hereby solemnly dedicate myself to wiping all pirates off the face of the earth!

Mabel:  
How lovely, and how admirable.

Frederic:  
Thank you , my dear...

Mabel:  
Mabel.

Frederic:  
My dear Mabel. And thank you for offering me your hand in friendship ... and in love.

Mabel:  
Dear Frederic, this is all so sudden. Let's talk about...the weather!

**(WARDS creep forward to overhear Frederic and Mabel)**

 Track #13

Mabel:  
How beautifully blue the sky, the glass is rising very high, Continue fine I hope it may, and yet it rained but yesterday.  
Tomorrow it may pour again (I hear the country wants some rain)  
Yet people say, I know not why, that we shall have a warm July,  
Tomorrow it may pour again (I hear the country wants some rain)

Frederic:  
Did ever gentleman wake from dreams of pirate's duty to find his daylight break with such exceeding beauty!

Mabel:  
How beautifully blue the sky, the glass is rising very high, Continue fine I hope it may, and yet it rained but yesterday.  
Tomorrow it may pour again (I hear the country wants some rain)  
Yet people say, I know not why, that we shall have a warm July,  
Tomorrow it may pour again (I hear the country wants some rain)

Mabel:  
How beautifully blue the sky,  
the glass is rising very high,  
Continue fine I hope it may,  
and yet it rained but yesterday.  
Tomorrow it may pour again  
(I hear the country wants some rain)  
Yet people say, I know not why,  
that we shall have a warm July  
Ah, yes!

Frederic:  
Did ever Pirate close his eyes on waking sadness to dream,  
to dream of such, of such exceeding gladness. Ah, yes!

 Track #14

Frederic:  
Stay, we must not lose our senses,  
Those who'd conquer your defenses  
Will anon be here! Piracy their dreadful trade is;  
Vanish gentle men and ladies, While the coast is...

**(PIRATES and Ruth have crept in to surround WARDS and grab them)**

Ruth:  
Thank you Frederic, for leading us to these charming  
new pirates!

**WARDS/Mabel:**  
**We're not pirates!**

Ruth:  
Not yet, but soon, my dears, soon. (To pirates) Ahoy,  
mateys! Gather these pirate apprentices and take them  
to the ship!

**PIRATES:**  
**Aaaarr!**

**WARDS:**  
**Eeek!**

 Track #15

Mabel:  
Hold monsters! Before you nasty villains proceed against  
our wills to capture all....just remember that we are the  
protected wards of Father, who is a Major General!

Ruth:  
We'd better pause - or danger may befall,  
Their father is a Major General!

Mabel:  
Yes, yes, he is a Major General!

Major General:  
Yes, yes, I am a Major General!

Ruth:  
For he is a Major General

**PIRATES/WARDS/Frederic/Mabel:**  
**He is! Hurrah for the Major General!**

Major General:  
And it is, it is a glorious thing to be a Major General!

**PIRATES/WARDS/Frederic/Mabel:**  
**It is! Hurrah for the Major General!**  
**Hurrah for the Major General!**

 Track #16

Major General:  
I am the very model of a modern Major General;  
I've information vegetable, animal, and mineral;  
I know the Kings of England and I quote the fights  
historical  
From Marathon to Waterloo, in order categorical;  
I'm very well acquainted too with matters mathematical,  
I understand equations, both the simple and quadratical,  
About binomial theorem I'm teeming with a lot o'news,  
With many cheerful facts about the square the  
hypotenuse.

Mabel/Ruth/Frederic:  
With many cheerful facts about the square the  
hypotenuse.  
With many cheerful facts about the square the  
hypotenuse.  
With many cheerful facts about the square the hypote,  
potenuse.

Major General:  
I'm very good at integral and differential calculus;  
I know the scientific names of beings animalculous;  
In short, in matters vegetable, animal, and mineral,  
I am the very model of a modern Major General.

**PIRATES/WARDS/Mabel/Ruth/Frederic:**  
**In short, in matters vegetable, animal, and mineral,**  
**He is the very model of a modern Major General.**

Major General:  
For my military knowledge, tho' I'm plucky and  
adventury,  
Has only been brought down to the beginning of the  
century;  
But still, in matters vegetable, animal and mineral,  
I am the very model of a modern Major General.

**PIRATES/WARDS/Mabel/Ruth/Frederic:**  
**In short, in matters vegetable, animal, and mineral,**  
**He is the very model of a modern Major General.**

 Track #17

Ruth:  
Well, how'd'you do? I will be brief: we have come to  
recruit your wards.

Major General:  
Recruit? As sailors?

Ruth:  
Aye!

Mabel:  
No - as pirates - these are the legendary Pirates of Penzance!

**PIRATES/Ruth:**  
**Aaaarr!**

**WARDS/Mabel:**  
**Help us, Papa, help us!**

Major General:  
(aside) Aha! The Pirates of Penzance...I've heard all about them. (to Ruth) My good woman, d'you mean to tell me that you would deliberately rob me of my children, and leave me all alone?

Ruth:  
Yes.

Major General:  
And me, a lonely orphan boy (sniff)

Ruth:  
You - an orphan - no!

Major General:  
Yes! (sob)

Ruth:  
Yes? (Major weeping, nods) Oh no! Then, my poor man, you may keep your wards. The Pirates of Penzance take pity on orphans.

Major General:  
(aside to audience) I know.

 Track #18

Major General:  
I'm telling a terrible story, But it doesn't diminish my glory;  
For they'd take my sons and my daughters over the billowy waters,

If I hadn't in elegant diction, indulged in an innocent fiction,  
Which is not in the same category as telling a regular terrible story.

Ruth/Frederic:  
If he's telling a terrible story,  
He's a liar without fame or glory  
And we'll take his sons & his daughters  
Over the billowy waters

Mabel/Major General:  
He is (I am) telling a terrible story  
Which will tend to diminish  
his (my) glory,  
Though they'd take his (my) sons  
and my daughters over the billowy waters

Ruth/ Frederic/Mabel/Major General:  
It is easy in elegant diction, to call it an innocent fiction  
But it comes in the same category as telling a regular terrible story,  
It's easy, in elegant diction, to call it an innocent fiction,  
But it comes in the same category as telling a regular story.

 Track #19

Ruth:  
You may go, for you're at liberty  
Our pirate rules protect you  
And honorary members of our band we do elect you.

Frederic:  
For he is an orphan boy!

**PIRATES/WARDS/Mabel/Ruth/Frederic/Maj. Gen.:**  
**He is! Hurrah for the orphan boy!**

Major General:  
And it sometimes is a useful thing to be an orphan boy.

**PIRATES/WARDS/Mabel/Ruth/Frederic/Maj. Gen.**  
**It is! Hurrah for the orphan boy!**  
**Hurrah for the orphan boy!**

## Act Two

 Track #20 Entr'acte

 Track #21

Mabel:  
Oh, Father, dry your tears. Whatever is the matter?

Major General:  
(wails)

Frederic:  
Sir, what brings you to this chilly old ruin at midnight,  
and in such a sorry state of mind?

Major General:  
I have no honor.

Frederic/Mabel:  
And why is that?

Major General:  
I lied - to you, to my other dear ones, and to the Pirates  
of Penzance. I am NOT an orphan.

Mabel:  
Oh, Father.

Major General:  
And since I am a coward as well as a liar, I am not  
about to tell the truth to those fearsome villains! Have  
you gathered the constables to do battle with the  
pirates?

Frederic:  
I have.

Major General:  
Are they many and mighty?

Frederic:  
Well....

 Track #22

Major General:  
Then, Frederic, let your escort lionhearted  
Be summoned to receive a general's blessing  
Ere they depart upon their dread adventure.

Frederic:  
Dear sir, they come.

(Frederic gathers 3 CONSTABLES who display  
great fear. Major General exits)

 Track #23

Mabel:  
My word, they do appear to be somewhat frightened.

Frederic:  
They don't like battles

CONSTABLES:  
(shrinking) Oh!

Frederic:  
Or pirates

CONSTABLES:  
(shrinking more) No!

Frederic:  
They particularly don't like battles WITH pirates.

CONSTABLES:  
(collapsing on floor) Yikes!

Mabel:  
(helping them up) Now, now, constables, be brave!  
(CONSTABLES salute her and quiver)  
Here, let's hold hands.  
(all hold hands and exit with Mabel)

Frederic:  
And now, I too, am prepared to do battle with the  
pirates. This purpose fills me with happiness and pride -  
at last I am on the side of the law!

(Pirate King and Ruth enter)

 Track #24

King:  
Young Frederic!

Frederic:  
Who calls?

King:  
Your Pirate Captain.

Ruth:  
And I, your little Ruth!

Frederic:  
Oh, mad intruders, How dare ye face me?  
Know ye not, oh rash ones,  
that I have doomed you to extermination?

King:  
Have mercy on us!  
Hear us, ere you slaughter!

Frederic:  
I do not think I ought to listen to you.  
Yet, mercy is a gentlemanly virtue,  
And so, I will be merciful - say on!

 Track #25

Ruth:  
When you had left our pirate fold, we tried to raise our  
spirits faint, according to our custom old, with quips and  
quibbles quaint.  
But all in vain the quips we heard, we lay and sobbed  
upon the rocks, until to somebody occurred a startling  
paradox.

Frederic:  
A paradox?

Ruth:  
A paradox, a most ingenious paradox! We've quips and  
quibbles heard in flocks, but none to beat this paradox!

Ruth/Frederic/King:  
A paradox, a paradox, a most ingenious paradox! Ha,  
ha, ha!

King:  
For some ridiculous reason, to which, however, I've no  
desire to be disloyal, some person in authority - I don't  
know who...

Ruth:  
very likely the Astronomer Royal,  
Has decided that, although for such a beastly month as

February, twenty-eight days as a rule are plenty,  
One year in every four his days shall be reckoned as  
nine-and twenty. Through some singular coincidence

King:  
I shouldn't be surprised if it were owing to the agency  
of an ill-natured fairy - You are the victim of this clumsy  
arrangement, having been born in leap year on  
the twenty NINTH of February; and so by a simple  
mathematical process, you'll easily discover,

Ruth:  
That though you've lived twenty-one years, yet

King:  
If we go by birthdays,

Ruth:  
you're only five

King:  
and a little bit over.

Ruth/King:  
Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ho, ho, ho, ho!

Frederic:  
Dear me! Let's see! Yes, yes, with yours my figures do  
agree!

Ruth/King/Frederic:  
Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha!

Frederic:  
How quaint the ways of Paradox!  
At common sense she gaily mocks!  
Though counting in the usual way,  
Years twenty-one I've been alive,  
Yet, reck'ning by my natal day,  
I am a little boy of five!

Ruth/King:  
He is a little boy of five! Ha, ha, ha, ha!

Ruth/Frederic/ King:  
A paradox, a paradox, a most ingenious paradox! Ha,  
ha, ha!  
A curious paradox! Ha, ha, ha, a most ingenious  
paradox!

 Track #26

Frederic:

What a splendid joke - me - only 5! No one would think it to look at me. *(asks nearby kids)* Do you think I look as if I'm 5? How old are you?

Ruth:

*(pulls him back)* Yes, yes. Well, Frederic, welcome back to our ranks!

Frederic:

Your ranks? But, I am no longer a pirate! As of today, my birthday, I am 21 - a free man!

Ruth:

Haven't you been listening?

King:

This is NOT leap year! Remember? You've only had 5 birthdays... and birthdays - not years - are what count! You must join us again, dear boy. Do your duty!

Frederic:

Please don't put it that way. *[covers ears and sings "I'm not listening"]*

*(Ruth and King look sternly at him and mouth words "do your duty"; Fred's shoulders sag)*

Frederic:

My duty is clear - although I despise piracy, according to law, I AM still your pirate apprentice for many, many years. Lead on, I follow - no - stop!

King/Ruth:

What is the matter?

Frederic:

As a pirate - *(shudder)*, oh horrible word - it is my duty to tell you that the Major General...

King/Ruth:

Yes?

Frederic:

He convinced you NOT to recruit his wards as pirates because HE was a lonely orphan boy?

King/Ruth:

yes, yes?

Frederic:

Though it breaks my heart, it is my duty to tell you that the Major General is NOT an orphan!

Ruth:

D'you mean he appealed to our tender hearts by lying?

*(Frederic nods)*

King:

No more pity. He is doomed. We'll collect the pirates and kidnap the wards this very night!

*(King and Ruth exit)*

*(Fred overcome with emotion. Mabel enters)*

 Track #27

Mabel:

All is prepared; your gallant crew await you. My Frederic in tears? It cannot be your brav'ry fails at the coming battle?

Frederic:

No, Mabel, no. A terrible disclosure has just been made. Mabel, my dearly loved one, I bound myself to serve the pirate captain until I reached my one and twentieth birthday

Mabel:

But you are twenty one!

Frederic:

I've just discovered that I was born in leap year, and that birthday will not be reached by me till nineteen forty!

Mabel:

Oh, horrible! Catastrophe appalling!

Frederic:

And so, farewell!

Mabel:

No, no! Ah, Fred'ric, hear me!  
Stay, Fred'ric stay! They have no legal claim;  
No shadow of a shame will fall upon they name.

Stay , Frederic, Stay!

Frederic:

Nay, Mabel, nay! Tonight I leave these halls  
The thought my soul appalls;  
But when stern Duty calls, I must obey.

Mabel:

Stay, Fred'ric, Stay!

Frederic:

Nay, Mabel, nay!

Mabel:

They have no claim -

Frederic:

But Duty's name.

Mabel:

No shadow of a shame  
will fall upon they name

Frederic:

The thought my should appalls;  
But when stern duty calls,

Mabel:

Stay Frederic, Stay!

Frederic:

I must obey.  
In 1940, my twenty-first birthday shall be,  
I'll then return and claim you, I declare it!

Mabel:

It seems so long!

Frederic:

Swear that, till then, you will be true to me.

Mabel:

Yes, I'll be strong.  
By all my ancestors dead and gone, I swear it!

Mabel/Frederic:

Oh, here is love, and here is truth,  
and here is food for joyous laughter  
She (He) will be faithful to her soothe,  
Till we are wed, and even after!

Oh, here is love, and here is truth,  
Oh here is love, is love! (Frederic exits)

 Track #28

Mabel:

No, I'll be brave! Frederic must do his duty and be  
a pirate - I must do my duty and become his (sniff)  
enemy. Constables, approach! **(3 CONSTABLES tiptoe  
fearfully onstage)** Prepare yourselves to do battle with  
the pirates!

Ruth/Frederic/King:

A rollicking band of pirates we, who tired of tossing on  
the sea,  
Are coming in force to kidnap thee because of the  
gen'ral's story.

Mabel:

Hush, hush! I hear them in the distance talking  
With quiet steps the pirates now are stalking.

Ruth/Frederic/ King:

We are not coming to steal your gold;  
A lying story the Gen'ral's told;  
his children will turn to pirates bold  
because we were told a story!

**CONSTABLES:**

**(spoken together)** They come in force with quiet  
stride; **Our only choice is now to hide!**

**(CONSTABLES hide, Mabel exits).**

 Track #29

**PIRATES/Ruth/Frederic/King:**

**With cat-like tread, upon our prey we steal;  
In silence dread, our cautious way we feel.  
No sound at all! We never speak a word;  
A fly's footfall would be distinctly heard.**

**So stealthily the pirate creeps,  
while all the household soundly sleeps**

**Come, friends who sail the sea,  
Truce to navigation; Take another station;  
Let's vary piracy, with a little roguery.  
With cat-like tread, upon our prey we steal;  
In silence dread our cautious way we feel.**

(King exits. Major General appears)

 Track #30

Frederic:  
Hush, hush, not a word; I see a light inside!  
The Major Gen'ral comes, so quickly hide!

Ruth:  
Yes, yes, the Major Gen'ral comes!

Ruth/Frederic:  
Yes, yes, the Major Gen'ral comes!

Major General:  
Yes, yes, the Major Gen'ral comes!  
Tormented with the anguish dread of falsehood  
unatoned,  
I lay upon my sleepless bed, and tossed and turned and  
groaned.  
The man who finds his conscience ache no peace at all  
enjoys;  
And as I lay in bed awake, I thought I heard a noise.

Frederic/Ruth:  
He thought he heard a noise

**PIRATES (peek out):**  
**HA, HA!**

Major General:  
No, all is still in dale, on hill;  
My mind is set at ease -  
So still the scene, it must have been  
The sighing of the breeze.

**(Mabel enters and gathers WARDS)**

Mabel:  
Now what is this, and what is that, and why does father  
leave his rest at such a time of night as this, so very  
incompletely dressed?  
Dear father is, and always was, the most well organized  
of men;  
He must obey his careful rule to go to bed at half-past  
ten.  
What strange occurrence can it be that calls dear father  
from his rest at such a time of night as this, so very  
incompletely dressed?

**(Ruth and PIRATES enter and surround Mabel and WARDS)**

Ruth:  
(spoken, over music) Forward, my pirates, and seize the  
Gen'ral's wards - they're coming with us!

Mabel:  
The pirates! The pirates! Oh, despair!

Ruth:  
Yes, we're the pirates; so despair!

Mabel:  
Frederic here! Oh, joy! Oh, rapture!  
Summon your men and effect their capture!  
Frederic, save us!

Frederic:  
Beautiful Mabel, I would if I could, but I am not able.

Ruth:  
He's telling the truth, he is not able.

King:  
(jumps out) With base deceit, he worked upon our  
feelings; Revenge is sweet and flavours all our dealings!  
With courage rare and stern determination,  
Come wards, prepare to join the pirate nation.

Mabel:  
Have pity on us!

King:  
And why? Your father has lied to us - said he was an  
orphan! He took advantage of our tender hearts.

Frederic:  
Constables, can you do nothing to help?

 Track #31

**CONSTABLES:**  
**We demand that you surrender in the name of the Queen!**

King/Ruth:  
The Queen?

**CONSTABLES/Frederic/Mabel:**  
**Yes, the Queen!**

Ruth/King:  
 We surrender. (gesture to PIRATES to kneel)  
 (CONSTABLES take off the King - then re-enter)

Ruth:  
 One moment! These are no common criminals - they are all nobles: lords and ladies - who, over the years, have gone wrong. You know, bad career choice and all that.

Mabel:  
 Nobles?

(WARDS and CONSTABLES help PIRATES up and shake hands; all ad lib: "here, here!" "pip pip" "cheerio" "jolly good!" "avast" "shiver me timbers")

(Major General appears above scenery)

Major General:  
 Although I was a cowardly liar, these noble pirates have given me a second chance because they love their queen. I'm moved to tears (sniff). I pray you all, pardon me for telling a terrible story that wasn't true. And now, all join hands to salute friendship and the queen! Hip, hip

**ALL:**  
**Hurrah!**

 Track #32

Mabel:  
 Poor wandering ones! Though ye have surely strayed,  
 Take heart of grace, Your steps retrace, poor wand'ring ones!  
 Poor wand'ring ones! If such a friendship as ours  
 Can help you find true peace of mind, why take it, it is yours.

**PIRATES/WARDS/Mabel/Ruth/King/Frederic:**  
**Take heart, fair days will shine,**  
**Take heart, fair days will shine,**

Mabel/Ruth/King/Frederic:  
 Take heart, take heart, take heart, take ours!

# THE END!