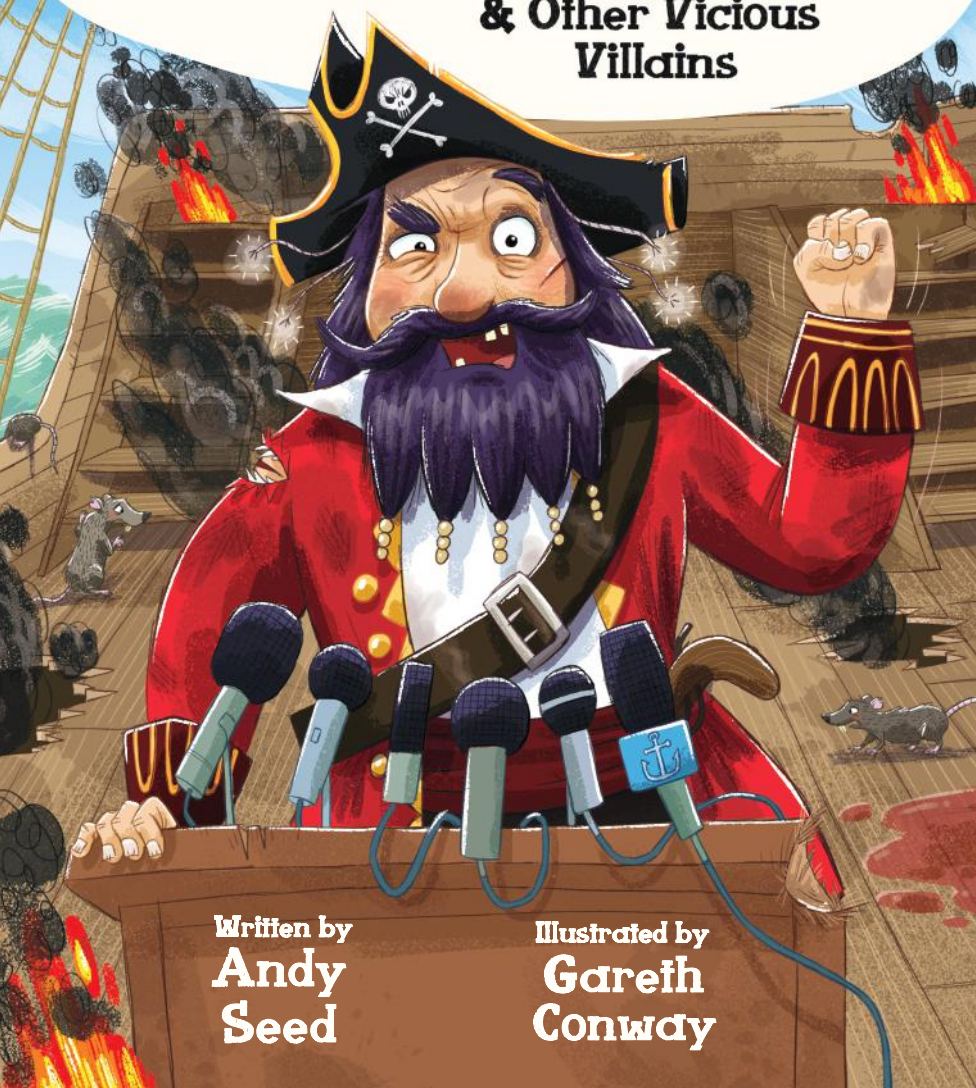


# Interview with **BLACKBEARD**

**& Other Vicious  
Villains**



Written by  
**Andy  
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Illustrated by  
**Gareth  
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# Introduction

You know what? For this book, I could have interviewed anyone. Perhaps I should have had a little natter with some really NICE people. Like maybe a sweet old granny. Or that lady who runs the charity for wonky kittens. Or the kindly gent down the road who grows purple tulips in a window box and wears a tie 24/7.

But NO. Those people are nice but, well, maybe they are TOO NICE. Instead, I decided to interview BAD people. Villains. They are much more interesting - after all, these are the horrid humans from history who actually did all the REALLY MEAN things that the rest of us would never DARE to do because our mums would go so ballistic, they would BREAK THE WORLD.





So, yes, for this book I got to meet ten of the baddest baddies from back in time. I blathered to outrageous outlaws, ruthless gangsters, a potty emperor, two thieving pirates and a violent vampire (maybe). There was also a sneaky conman who sold the Eiffel Tower, and a man so TERRIBLE that his name was, well, Terrible! Yes, you can read my Q&A with all of them right here!



Ah, you want to know how I did it? OK, well, I am extremely lucky because I am one of the few authors around who has a TIME MACHINE that can also translate ancient languages and makes a decent cup of tea. Handy, eh? Yes, with my trusty tranimalator I can travel back to any year in history and still get home in time for pudding. Plus, it's very useful for getting me out of deathly-dangerous situations, as you'll see.

Sit back now, and enjoy the VILLAINOUS TRUTH...

**Andy Seed**



## — An interview with — Blackbeard

Well, I'm sailing in the sunny Caribbean in the year 1717, but this is NO CRUISE because the captain of this ship is the most FEARSOME PIRATE who ever lived... oh what have I DONE?

**Q. Morning! First question: is Blackbeard your real name?**

**A.**Arrr!

**Q. Do you enjoy being a murderous pirate?**

**A.**Arrrr!

**Q. Do you always say, 'arrr'?**

**A.**What? Oh, sorry. I was actually saying *arrghh* - I just dropped a cannonball on my toe.

**Q. Ouch. Anyway, my question was: is Blackbeard your real name?**

**A.**And who wants to know, exactly? You don't look like one of my crew. None of them dress that badly...

**Q.** Ah, yes, *I feared this might come up...* I am, er, looking for adventure.

**A.** Oh, so you want to join the crew? Have you had much buccaneering experience? Spent long at sea?

**Q.** Erm... yes... my pedalo once got tangled in seaweed near Rhyl. Anyway, *I'm supposed to be asking the questions!*

**A.** You do know I am the captain here, and this vessel is manned by a hundred cut-throats, don't you? Tell me, if you're a real sailor, what's this called?

**Q.** Erm, the mizzen? No, wait, it's the cringle!

**A.** It's the binnacle! The mizzen is a mast. Any true seaman would know that. What's the poop deck for?

**Q.** Well, I wouldn't like to say... sounds disgusting!

**A.** As I suspected, you're a spy. Probably a landlubber sent by the Navy to find my whereabouts. They've been after Blackbeard for years...

**Q.** But IS BLACKBIRD YOUR REAL NAME?

**A.** No, it's *Blackbeard*. Men, throw this troublemaker in the hold. We'll use him for bait when we meet some sharks, ha.

**Q.** What about Edward Teach?

**A.** WAIT! Leave him. Where did you hear that name? Who are you really?



**Q.** OK, time to tell the truth. My name is Andy and I'm from 200 years in the future and I've time-travelled here to interview you for a book. You're the one pirate everybody's heard of!

**A.** HAHAAHAHA! Now THAT is a story! Well, spy or nay, you can certainly entertain the crew with crazy tales like that when we are out on the ocean.



**Q.** Perhaps you'll believe me if I tell you that you are from Bristol but became a privateer, running a boat out here in the West Indies, raiding Spanish ships for the British Government while the two countries were at war? You also lived on Jamaica for a time before visiting the Republic of Pirates in Nassau where you sailed with Benjamin Hornigold. True or not?

**A.** So, mysterious stranger, you know my story - well, a small part of it - perhaps I should believe you. Or maybe I should just save myself the trouble and throw you overboard. What do you want to know?

**Q.** I want to know how you became a pirate and what it's like, and if the stories about you in books are true. This is your chance to set the record straight, dispel the myths! Will you do it?

**A.** Well, why not. I can tell my story and still throw you into the sea if I feel like it... go ahead with your questions, Andrew of Tomorrowland.

**Q.** Ah, thank you, finally. Right, so why did you become a pirate?

**A.** Why indeed... it's a dishonest and dangerous life but an exciting one. It beats sitting behind a desk in some dusty town... Like you said, ten years ago I was out here in the Caribbean, commanding a fast, well-armed sloop and capturing Spanish treasures from ships sailing from their colonies. I loved the life of a privateer, and I had the blessing of good Queen Anne too.

**Q.** Oh right, you mean you captured boats going from America to Spain - so what was the treasure? Gold and jewels?

**A.** Occasionally gold, often silver. But there are other kinds of treasure out here in the West Indies: sugar, wine, rum, cocoa, cotton, indigo dye - they are worth good money.



**Q.** So, you were a kind of legalised pirate because England was at war with Spain and France, fighting over who would control Europe and which colonies in America would belong to which country?

**A.** It was a bit more complicated than that, but yes. Then the war ended in 1713 and I was out here. I didn't want to go back and live in Jamaica or cold, damp Britain. I enjoyed the life at sea, I was a good sailor and the men trusted me. Besides, we had guns and cannon and the Spanish merchant ships were still loaded with rich cargoes...

**Q. You carried on robbing them then?**

**A.** Well, not at first. I thought about becoming a slave trader but then I heard about this island in the Bahamas controlled by pirates. There were stories about it everywhere. The Republic of Pirates. I had to go and see for myself.

**Q. What was it like?**

**A.** Lawless, rough, treacherous... There was too much chance of having your throat slit in a place like that. Instead, I joined the crew of a crafty skipper, Ben Hornigold. We soon captured some vessels and he gave one to me to command. We sailed together and plundered Spanish goods.

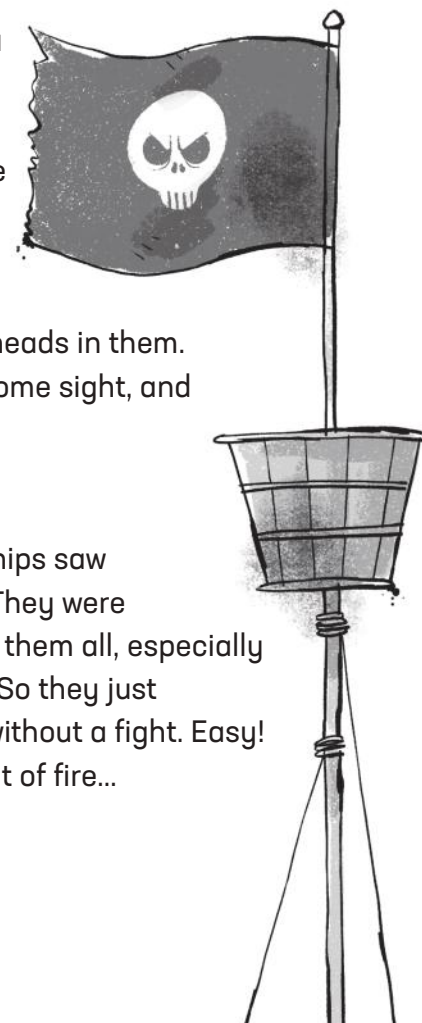


**Q. What did you do with the captured ships? Jump aboard and murder the crew?**

**A.** Ah, so you don't know everything... No, my lad, that is not my way. I split from Hornigold after a while. My men said we should loot *every* ship, even the British. By this time, I had a bigger craft with more guns, the *Revenge*. I led a bold crew, with three boats in all. And I learned there was no need for bloodshed.

**Q. How? What? I thought you were a vicious, evil brute?**

**A.** Ha, then you are mistaken! I am a big man but I also wore imposing clothes, a tall hat and I grew my dark beard long and had it plaited. We flew black flags with death heads in them. I looked like a terror, a fearsome sight, and that was enough...



**Q. What do you mean?**

**A.** When sailors on captured ships saw me, they said I was a devil! They were convinced I was going to kill them all, especially as I always wore six pistols. So they just handed over their cargoes without a fight. Easy! Especially when I added a bit of fire...



**Q. Fire?**

**A.** Yes, I tucked some lit fuses into my hat where they hung down, spitting sparks and smoke. That really convinced them I was more demon than man. But I never killed anyone.

**Q. And did you ever say, 'Me hearties'?**

**A.** No.

**Q. 'Shiver me timbers'?**

**A.** Eh?

**Q. I won't mention 'pieces of eight'.**

**A.** Good. What else do you want to know?

**Q. Why are you so secretive about your real name?**

**A.** You may think I'm just a filthy pirate robber, but I am an educated man from a good family. I want to protect them in case I am captured. I don't want them to be blamed for my misdeeds.

**Q. So, you know what you are doing is wrong?**

**A.** Of course! It's stealing. But where did this treasure come from? The Spanish have looted the American lands to the south for centuries. They invaded and just took whatever they wanted from the local people. The British and French did the same. And they put slaves to work all over these islands in the West Indies, growing sugar. They grew rich from

all of that. So I have taken some of their ill-gotten wealth.

**Q. Right, I see. This ship must be full of money. Are you going to bury it?**

**A.** What, bury a ship? That would be a BIG hole...

**Q. No, I mean... oh never mind, I know you're going to tell me pirates don't bury treasure, so I won't ask. What ship is this, by the way?**

**A.** The *Queen Anne's Revenge*. I captured it from the French and added 40 cannons. Of course, our dear queen is dead now and we have some German called George on the throne. PAH.

**Q. So, what are your plans next?**

**A.** As you can see, I now have several vessels at my command, enough to blockade a port in the colonies.

**Q. What does that mean?**

**A.** We're heading for South Carolina, on the American coast. There's a town there called Charleston. My ships are going to block the harbour and rob anyone sailing in or out. Easy pickings. But what I really want are medicines.

**Q. Are you ill? Fuse burns, maybe? Scurvy? Wooden leg rash?**

**A.** As you can see, my legs are flesh and bone, strange man. No, pirate crew are not, well, the *healthiest* of human beings... In fact - they stink. And when we call into ports they're always catching diseases from the locals. I need a fit crew, not a bunch of sickly idlers!



**Q. What if there are soldiers at Charleston, or the Royal Navy arrive?**

**A.** Then we will fight them! We have a LOT of firepower. But I have heard that the king wants to send a fleet of warships here to stop we pirates from wrecking trade in the Caribbean. If that happens, I may take the Royal Pardon.



**Q. Pardon?**

**A.** I may take... Oh, haha, a joke. Of sorts. No, it means the king will let us go unpunished if we give up our piracy. I hear Ben Hornigold has already gone that way...

**Q. Right, that's all my questions answered. Thank you, Blackbeard! Or should I say, Mr Teach...**

**A.** Men, THROW HIM OVERBOARD NOW!

**Q. Go tranimalator, GO!**

# Blackbeard bashed

## What happened next?

- Blackbeard and his pirate ships did blockade Charleston in 1718.
- The Governor of Virginia then hired some Royal Navy ships and sailors to ambush Blackbeard.
- There was a battle on the American coast and Blackbeard's men were outnumbered.
- He died after taking five gunshots and 20 sword cuts.
- His head was cut off and placed at the front of a Navy ship as a warning to other pirates.

## The real end of pirates of the Caribbean

The Royal Navy sailed with a powerful fleet of ships and destroyed the Republic of Pirates in the Bahamas. They protected merchant ships and so put an end to pirates like Blackbeard who had terrorised the West Indies for decades.

## A shipwreck rises

In 1996, the wreck of Blackbeard's ship the *Queen Anne's Revenge* was found on the seabed near the US coast. Over 300,000 items have been recovered from the wreck including:

- 31 cannons and 400 cannonballs
- The ship's anchor
- Coins
- Weapons
- But no treasure.

