



The Angel's Command (Castaways of the Flying Dutchman)

By Brian Jacques

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***New York Times* bestselling author Brian Jacques tells a haunting tale at sea from The Castaways of the Flying Dutchman series!**

Ben and his Labrador, Ned, castaways from the legendary ghost ship Flying Dutchman, swore never go to sea again-but a mishap in South America lands them aboard a French pirate ship with not one, but two villainous sea captains in pursuit. To make matters worse, Ben is still haunted by visions of Captain Vanderdecken, whose ghost seeks vengeance on the former cabin boy. And that is only the beginning of their adventures!

"Almost nonstop action."—*School Libray Journal*

"Fairly bursts at the seams with exciting escapades, exotic locations, poems, shanties, treachery and derring-do."—*Publishers Weekly*

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 5 Up--This is the second installment (Philomel, 2003) of Brian Jacques' series, *The Castaways of the Flying Dutchman*, about Ben and his faithful black Labrador companion, Ned, who have been saved by an angel from evil pirates and given the ability to communicate telepathically. The story works both as a sequel to first tale and a stand alone story. Ben helps a French buccaneer captain, Raphael Thuron, expose a cheating Spanish pirate, fleeing when the pirate realizes he has lost his gold. The first book ends with the Frenchman and crew dead, and Ben and Ned alone. In this sequel, it is 1628 and the pair rescues a gypsy girl and helps a young artist. The group meets a nobleman, and volunteers to travel to the mountains to rescue his long-lost nephew from an evil group practicing the black arts. A goatherd woman living in the mountains is drawn into the rescue. Jacques narrates with help from a full cast. There are songs scattered throughout, and chapter breaks are accompanied by music. Both parts blend when the pair meet Thuron's priest brother and find the sunken pirate gold. There is just enough description given to let imagination take over. Careful listening is required at times to understand both words and accents. Jacques emphasizes relationships between characters. The wordless communication between Ben and his irreverent companion is a highlight. With the popularity of pirate movies during this past summer, this audiobook will interest middle and high school students and would be a good choice for school and public libraries.--Susan Rice, Evergreen Local Schools, Metamora, OH

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From [Booklist](#)

Gr. 5-9. In this sequel to *Castaways of the Flying Dutchman* (2001), Ben and his black Labrador pal, Ned, continue their travels after an angel rescues them from the evil crew of the ship *The Flying Dutchman*. As with the first book, this novel is divided into two nearly separate stories. The first plods the heroes into seventeenth-century Caribbean waters, teaming them with Captain Thuron, a valiant French buccaneer. This adventure comes to an abrupt end with Thuron's death, and Ben and Ned soon find themselves allied with new compatriots in an attempt to rescue a young man from the Razan, a tribe well versed in the black arts who live high in the Pyrenees. Although the heroes usually escape from tight spots through fortuitous accidents or divine intervention rather than clever plot twists, Jacques has still come up with another page-turner. Readers who enjoyed the first book will find this sequel even more exciting. *Todd Morning*
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Review

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"Fairly bursts at the seams with exciting escapades, exotic locations, poems, shanties, treachery and derring-do."—*Publishers Weekly*

"Anyone, young and old, who enjoys being immersed in big, romantic adventures, will love this series. Young readers hooked by Jacques's storytelling magic in *Castaways* and the *Redwall* series are destined to be readers for life. May his readers be legion."—*Kirkus Reviews*

"This charming yet haunting story of a boy and his dog, fated by an angel to wander the earth for eternity doing good deeds for others, will appeal to any reader looking for the next step after Avi's *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle*."—*VOYA*

"It has all the elements that make Jacques' books sing—terrific description, wonderful characters, and the power to transport you to an unforgettable place."—*Detroit Free Press*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Daniel Kirk:

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