

Walk the Plank

by Meryl McQueen
and



The Host Productions

A guy, a girl, a treasure, and an auto shop

Girl—auto mechanic by day, swashbuckling pirate by night, Annabelle Gracie Mae Lavelle

Guy— accountant by day, lonely bachelor by night, his name's Byron Chrysler Gray

Parrot

Joseph Jacob 'Ironjaw' Gavin Sinclair

Pirates

Bystanders

Insurance adjusters

Her songs:

1. *Walk the Plank*
2. *Under the Hood*
3. *Bird Brain Brawl*

His songs:

4. *Subaru Blues*
5. *Number Crunch* (his accident scene?)

Their duets

6. *An Ingot for Your Thoughts* (when they really are in love, much later in the show)
7. *Test Drive* (they get together, and set up their first date)
8. *It Always Starts Like This* (the abduction scene, they both get kidnapped by rival pirates—so her 'always starts like this' is the kidnapping, but his is him failing in the eyes of a beautiful woman)
9. *Down the Hatch*
10. *Training Wheels* (her teaching him to be a pirate, using stuff in the auto body shop)

Other songs

11. *Parrot's Lament* (the bird, can I come home with you??)
12. *The Dread Captain Annabelle* (the bad pirate's mob song, part A)
13. *Here He Comes A-Limpin'* (the bad pirate's mob song, part B)
14. *Nest Egg* (in souped-up Subaru, they treasure hunt, find map in capsule parrot's leg)
15. *Parrot's Lament* reprise (end treasure hunt, parrot sacrifices himself to save them all, talking to death)

SCENE 1

First scene—she's crawling in her window in her pirate's outfit, sword by her side, definitely a buccaneer and not a wench!

Walk the Plank

**You'd think a pirate's life for sure,
The loot, the flags, the open sea
To boot, the swags, perfect for me,**

But no

**Routine is tired and strife's allure,
Is moot, time drags, oh, yessirree,
Shooting crime lags, and suddenly**

**You wake up every morning
Take my warning,
The 'grr' the 'argh' the 'mate ahoy'
No thrill of stolen cargo, no joy,
You might as well just walk the plank
Or rob a bank
More fun any day.**

**Ocean theft sounds like a charm,
All black skulls and bloody fighting,
Filling hulls with gold inciting war**

But no

**Now I am left aground, unarmed,
Constant lulls, the odd ship sighting,
Interest dulls, boredom is biting,**

**You wake up every morning,
Take my warning,
A buccaneer is only worth her weight in
Gold veneer and alloy plating,
You might as well just walk the plank
Or rob a bank
More fun any day.**

Scene 2: He's in his car, on his way to work

Subaru Blues

**Woke up with sunrise
To the same old day
No new tomorrows
Just the same old way**

**Brushing and flossing
Toast and juice, okay
Stop at the crossing
Never lose my way**

<<<school crossing>>>>

**I've got the daily grind, out-of-my-mind
Subaru blues.**

**Pack lunch, a sandwich
Always PB&J,
Banana, apple,
My fruit RDA**

**Drive in the right lane
There's a toll to pay
In sun and in rain
No, I never stray**

**I've got the daily grind, out-of-my-mind
Subaru blues.**

**And when I get there
To the office today
My cube awaiting
It's where I will stay**

**Set down my briefcase
Clean out the mail in-tray
Start with the spreadsheets
That's how accountants play**

I've got the daily, grind out-of-my-mind Subaru blues.

I've got the daily, grind out-of-my-mind Subaru blues.

SCENE 3—in the shop, she's so happy to be there

Under the Hood

First a wrench, then a hammer,
Jack 'em up, slam her down

Never late, in by eight,
It's the sweetest of sounds

Now under the hood, where I could just be
Some may mind dust in the air,
At the shop where the tools make the rules for me,
And the grease and the grime are my fare.

Torn brakes new, clean transmission,
Worn cranks too, they're my mission

Each piece fits, it's a puzzle
Teach me this, otherwise I'll
Drown

Under the hood, it's all good to me,
Every day find my way back
To the shop where we fix it by six or it's free
With the boss there to keep us on track.

Under the hood, I could feel free,
No way I'd need to sail back
To the ship where my voice leaves no choice in decree
And I'm the boss in regalia black.

SCENE 4: the accident itself—he's neurotic about how much it will cost

Number Crunch

Deductible!

Uninterruptable fact, I've
Blown my insurance, third time this year.

Incorruptible,
That my luck will crack, I've
Grown quite used to the nerves and fear.

When they come to inspect it
And they crawl around
When they sum, I expect it'll
Make me cry and frown.

Irretrievable
Unbelievable fact, I've
Crashed my old clunker, third time this year.

Wholly conceivable,
That my luck will crack, I'm
Cashed out to zero, all that's left is fear.

Feeling numb won't protect me
I know what I'll hear
When I'm glum, they'll direct me
To sign here and here

Unejectable
Undetectable fact, I've
Blown the account, third time this year

Unrejectable
Nothing left intact, I'm
Thrown to the ground, all that's left is fear.

When they've crunched all the numbers,
And they've left for lunch,
I'll be lost, I'll be lonely
No, it's not a hunch.

While the numbers are crunching
And the bill's sky high
I'll be checking my check book
With a long, sad sigh.

'intact' rhymes with 'fact'
Panicking about money—she says, "Don't panic."

SCENE 5: Where they meet in the body shop

An Ingot for Your Thoughts (duet)

Can you spare a moment for me?
I could swear you were sent to me
I don't dare believe it's coincidental
That your fender got bent all
Out of shape right out there.

Can you spare a side glance for me?
I could swear, not by chance for me
I declare we've got non-accidental
Collision that went all
Out to set up this pair.

An ingot for your thoughts
If they're swirling with delight
At the mere angelic sight of me.

An ingot for your thoughts,
If they're whirling sunshine bright,
At the sheer unfettered light of me.

Bridge:

Can you catch the hint that I dropped?
Can you spare a moment for me?

Can you match the way my heart stopped?
Can you spare a side glance for me?

An ingot for your thoughts
If they're twirling in dark flight
At the soft and lovely sight of me.

An ingot for your thoughts,
If they're unfurling in stark fright
At the lofty, wafty light of me.

I can feel the breath in my chest,
I can feel that death would be best,

If I never know your thoughts of me.

SCENE 6: Set up their first date (maybe a waltz—a sidling, non touching, paying up the bill over the counter waltz)

Test Drive

HE: Treasure's buried beneath where,
We're both lonely and alike,

SHE: Treasure's buried beneath there,
I can see what he's like.

HE: Measure down underneath where,
Life stretches, we've always known.

SHE: Measure down underneath there,
Count the days all alone.

THEY SING THE CHORUS TOGETHER:

Take me out for a test drive,
Take me out on the town,
Make me feel that I'm alive,
Don't forsake me, don't let me down.

HE: Leisure time is a rare thing,
Is this chance too good to be true?

SHE: Leisure time is a rare thing,
But I can spend some with you,

HE: Displeasure certain to follow,
I'm a klutz, I'm a nerd

SHE: Displeasure certain to follow,
And yet, I'm strangely stirred

THEY SING THE CHORUS TOGETHER:

Take me out for a test drive,
Take me out on the town,
Make me feel that I'm alive,
Don't forsake me, don't let me down.

He: So, it's a...

SHE: Date. Time, place. Let's just see how it goes.

THEY SING THE CHORUS TOGETHER as he's wandering out:

Take me out for a test drive,
Take me out on the town,
Make me feel that I'm alive,
Don't forsake me, don't let me down.

SCENE 7: Kidnapped on their first date

It Always Starts Like This

SHE: It always starts like this

HE: (I knew it)

SHE: Just before the first real kiss

HE: (I can't do it)

SHE: They've followed me for years

HE: (No, I'll get through it)

SHE: There will be fighting, there'll be tears

HE: (Almost like a coup it)

SHE: If he cries right now I'll scream

HE: (Means I'm worth her while to do it)

SHE: Maybe he'll think it's all a dream

HE: (No, it can't be true)

**SHE: But my life is complicated
Day and night are unrelated
Piracy so over-rated
My dates inevitably start like this.**

<<<And now she's looking everywhere but at him, at the pirates sneaking up on them from behind barrels and cars and all around.>>>

HE: It always starts like this

SHE: (I knew it)

HE: With the girls I swing and miss

SHE: (Ah, screw it)

HE: Maybe this one's who I need

SHE: (They'll rue it)

HE: I can follow, she can lead

SHE: (He'll prob'ly sue)

HE: Does she like me how I am?

SHE: (Will he take treasure in lieu it)

HE: A sort of stand-right-by-you man

SHE: (Would be easier that's true)

HE: But my life is complicated
Solitude unabated
Single life so over-rated
My dates inevitably start like this.

(TOGETHER) Their choruses

And then the pirates sneak up and attack.

SCENE 8: Captured, in the hold

He says: What happens now.

She says: Shh. Watch.

Bird Brain Brawl

(She sings about lots of pirates fighting over a lost card game, a parrot up for grabs?)

**One-eyed Jack, fist of aces
Stabbed in the back, trading places
There is gonna be a bird brain brawl.**

**Hold the queens, cover faces,
What this means, hide the traces
Of a seated cheaters' bird brain brawl**

**Starts out slow, on a simmer
Rumbles low, there's a glimmer,
It's a one-day, fun-day bird brain brawl.**

**Peg Leg Larry,
Cross-eyed Harry,
Blackheart Lou,
Oscar too.**

**Don't you know it,
Self-styled poet,
But he's just a rhyming thug.**

**Last is Chester,
Watch that gesture,
Man has got a killer hug.**

**Game's a breeze, five-card poker,
Play with ease, hold the joker
It's a Sunday morning bird brain brawl.**

**When the mates abandon honor
Sealed their fates, game's a goner,
No denying it's a bird brain brawl.**

**One-eyed Jack, fist of aces
Stabbed in the back, trading places
There is gonna be a bird brain brawl.**

**Hold the queens, cover faces,
What this means, hide the traces
Of a seated cheaters' bird brain brawl**

SCENE 9: *Down the Hatch* Their escape

Down the Hatch

SHE: You're thinking 'damsel in distress'
Well, I'm one less,
So no need to try to impress me.

Down the hatch
I'll pick the latch
And you can jump in

Down the hatch
There's a catch
I hope you swim

You think the hero's just a guy,
Well, that's a lie,
And no, you won't die with me.

Down the hatch
Pass the ratch-
-et, this'll do fine

Down the hatch
Then I'll attach
This nylon rope line

HE: I thought at least you'd need my help
X But all I could do was yelp,
X Don't let me drown in the kelp please

Down the hatch
My heart is satu-
-rated, newfound bliss

Down the hatch
I might just snatch
A cold wet embrace or a kiss.

A man should be so bold and brave,
Though cowardice is all I gave,
And yet you still bother to save me.

Down the hatch
The perfect match
She's just the thing

Down the hatch
I can't detach
I'll need a ring

INSTRUMENTAL

SHE: Stick with me, I'll save your life

With deadly sharks this water's rife <<<and he gets down on 1 knee behind her, and she turns around right at the end of their last line>>>

SHE: But don't you dare ask me to be your wife <<<together>>>

HE: And now I'm asking you to be my wife <<<together>>>

SCENE 10: About to jump ship

Parrot's Lament

Please take me with you
Pretty please take me with you
You won't regret it for a minute
Life is better with me in it
Please take this bird along.

Please take me with you
Pretty please take me with you
I'm a perfect pet, full of panache,
And if you leave me here I face the lash!
Please take this bird along.

Please take me with you,
Pretty 'Pirate-Polly-Wanna-Cracker' please take me with you,
There's no future here, let's face it,
Traitor birds will be erased if only,
Please take this bird along.

Please take me with you
Pretty please take me with you,
I'll be defeathered, I'll be oiled,
I'll be roasted, I'll be broiled, so
Please take this bird a--SQUAWK!!! <<<(She grabs him, shushes him, and stuffs him in her vest)

SCENE 11: Teaching him piracy in the auto body shop

Him: Why don't you just quit?

Her: Destiny. (shrugs) It's a whole 'born to be a child of the Shanghai-ed channels of the sea' thing. No biggie.

Him: The mega-wiggins a moment ago says otherwise. I'm thinking biggie.

Him: Teach me all you know, and I'll do the swashbuckling for you. Or, you know, sometimes. We could trade off. Tuesdays. I could definitely do Tuesdays.

Her: It's no use. They expect (she looks him up and down)...me.

I panicked. I saw my life flashing. Well, slowly. Beeping. Won't happen again. A moment of insanity. (the proposal, his trying to get her to train him)

Training Wheels

**SHE: I don't like this. Bad idea.
I don't like this. Bad idea.
I won't do this. Bad idea.
I won't do this. Bad idea.**

**HE: I'm excited. Great idea.
I'm excited. Great idea.
I can do this. Great idea.
I can do this. Great idea.**

HE: I don't get it all, not yet, but I'll get through it fine.

SHE: I don't bet, I shouldn't let him walk this thin red line.

HE: I won't fail, I'll soon regale her with my skill and daring,

SHE: I won't bail, I won't grow pale at his lack of flair

HE: I'm in training, can't explain I want to make her proud.

SHE: I'm just feigning, while he strains, great, now we've got a crowd.

HE: I can prove to her, the moves are not that hard to do.

SHE: I can prove to him, the moves are much too hard to do. <<<this is where she gets all martial artsy and he manages somehow to stay on his feet>>>

SHE: Training wheels, he needs training wheels.

HE: Training wheels, take off my training wheels.

SHE: Training wheels, he needs training wheels.

HE: Training wheels, take off my training wheels.

<<they get whirling dervishy and he keeps accidentally NOT getting maimed>>

SHE: dialogue (looking almost impressed) Not bad. Ready to kick it up a notch?

HE: (huffing and puffing) Nods, then almost collapses hands on knees when she turns around.

**SHE: I'm excited. Great idea.
I'm excited. Great idea.
I can do this. Great idea.
I can do this. Great idea.**

**HE: I don't like this. Bad idea.
I don't like this. Bad idea.
I won't do this. Bad idea.
I won't do this. Bad idea.**

SHE: I don't underestimate, the speedy rate at which he's learning,

HE: I don't want to hesitate, but wait, my lungs are burning,

SHE: I won't slow another thrown, he's catching on so fast

HE: If I don't forgo another blow I'll end up in a cast

SHE: I'm delighted, quite right, he's a hero, who knew?

HE: I'm right, I shouldn't bite off more than I can chew

SHE: In the crows nest, pirate no less, he'd be okay

HE: I might be obsessed, but need to rest for a week and a day.

HE: Training wheels, I need training wheels.

SHE: Training wheels, he's done with training wheels.

HE: Training wheels, give me my training wheels.

SHE: Training wheels, take off his training wheels.

Her: How about every night of the week, and twice on Sundays?

Him: I might need to start off slow.

Her: Not instead of. With.

It's no use. I'm no use.

But you were fantastic..in the shop

Luck. Sheer, blind, stupid luck.

She pauses, looking disappointed. Then furrows her brow.

That's your life in a crunchy nutshell, then? Generally lucky, are you?

He turns slowly. Not...generally

Then we can use it to our advantage. They'll never see it coming.

SCENE 12: On the baddies' ship, they're singing how scared they are of her, when their captain comes over and they have to change their tune (literally), hee hee.

The Dread Captain Annabelle

Captain Annabelle Gracie May Lavelle

No southern belle

Name rhymes with hell

Holy terror

No room for error

She's the scariest one in the book

No peg leg

No brandy keg

Her reputation we fear more than a hook

And it's heigh-ho, buckle your swash

If you lie low, all the muck'll wash off

But the Dread Captain Annabelle is on her way

Swab the deck daily

Don't dare to fail she

Won't like that, not one bit, not at all

It's 'yes, sir,'

Salute her

Know what's good for you, or you'll take a fall.

And it's heigh-ho, buckle your swash

If you lie low, all the muck'll wash off

But the Dread Captain Annabelle is on her way

Captain Annabelle Gracie May Lavelle

She's no hard sell

She's your death knell

Captain Annabelle Gracie May Lavelle

No southern belle

Name rhymes with—

INTERRRUPTED!

ALL THE PIRATES TOGETHER, SEEING SINCLAIR:

Aw, hell!

SCENE 13: Continuous

Here He Comes A-Limpin'

Here he comes a-limpin'

Don't he look the part?

Hide the inner wimp in

An outfit, it's a start

Leather vest, on his chest

Attire is where it's at.

Hoop in ear, practiced leer,

Feather in his hat.

One-eyed squint, gaze of flint,

A pirate looks like that?

Grizzled face, just in case

We mistook him for a rat.

Here he comes a-limpin'

Don't he sound the part?

Hide the inner wimp in

The lingo, it's a start.

Heigh, ahoy, tally, oi,

That's just how it goes

Heave me mate, his overstat-

-ed growls are on the nose.

Every bargain, thick with jargon,

Amuses all our foes.

Every word, we've ever heard

From him reaches new lows.

INTERVAL SPOKEN:

Sinclair Raving like a talking pirate crazy guy all over the ship, 'har har,' 'salty dog,' etc.

Pirate one: Joseph Jacob 'Ironjaw' Gavin Sinclair

Pirate two: Calls himself Sinclair the Sinker

Pirate three: Truly he's not much a thinker

We call him Gavvy in the lavvy

Call him Jack behind his back,

Watch him there, he's unaware

How much respect we lack.

**Here he comes a-limpin'
Don't he look (and sound) the part?
Hide the inner wimp in
An outfit (or a lingo), it's a start**

We all know it's affectation, no one in the pirate nation really looks or sounds or smells like that.

SCENE 14: Treasure hunting

Nest Egg

HE: We're going on a treasure hunt.

SHE: You've got that map back to front.

HE: There'll be danger there'll be baddies, I'll take a stand I have my pride,

SHE: I've rearranged my day I'm mad he's taken all the planning in his stride

HE: She will see how tough I am, I'm not a jerk

SHE: Can't he see how hard it is to make this work?

DIALOGUE:

HE: Thank you. I know how hard it is to include me in this part of your life.

She melts.

**If we're lucky, at the end of this skull and bones rainbow,
A box of golden treasure waiting to be found
We've been stuck without a friend, and for too long we've lain low,
With that nest egg turn our lives around.**

SHE: We're going on a treasure hunt.

HE: I'll show her that I'm not a runt.

SHE: Hope his fortune holds with me here, need a partner not a victim or we're screwed.

HE: Nope, a sure win, told her I'm here, fight that pirate, we'll evict him, yes it's true.

**If we're lucky, at the end of this skull and bones rainbow,
A box of golden treasure waiting to be found
We've been stuck without a friend, and for too long we've lain low,
With that nest egg turn our lives around.**

BRIDGE (TOGETHER):

We're the best together,

And a nest egg would be better.

Follow the map to the letter.

**If we're lucky, at the end of this skull and bones rainbow,
A box of golden treasure waiting to be found
We've been stuck without a friend, and for too long we've lain low,
With that nest egg turn our lives around.**

SCENE 15: parrot's funeral, talking to DEATH, and Sinclair appears from somewhere and leers at the camera, then swoops over his cape and BLACKOUT.

Parrot's Lament reprise

**Please don't take me with you,
Pretty please don't take me with you
You'll regret it every minute,
Hell will be hell with me in it,
Please leave this bird a lone.**

**Please don't take me with you,
Pretty please don't take me with you**

FADING ON THE LAST LINE, ZOOM OUT

THE END!!!

DIALOG

So, you've...uh...killed a lot of people

Annabelle shakes her head.

Threatened. Threatened to kill. And invented a few casualties along the way—you know, friends of friends of pirates? That sort of thing.