



The Pirate Code

Heidi Schulz , John Hendrix (Illustrations)

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Fresh off a fearsome encounter with the Neverland crocodile, Jocelyn Hook decides the most practical plan is to hunt down her father's famous fortune. After all, she'll need the gold to fund her adventuring in the future. (And luckily, Hook left her the map.)

But the map proves to be a bit harder to crack than Jocelyn had hoped, and she's convinced that the horrible Peter Pan might be the only one with the answers. Of course, he doesn't really feel like helping her, so Jocelyn takes the only reasonable course of action left to her: she kidnaps his mother. Evie, though, is absolutely thrilled to be taken prisoner, so Jocelyn's daring ploy doesn't have quite the effect she'd planned for.

Along with the problem of her all-too-willing captive, Jocelyn must also contend with Captain Krueger, whose general policy is that no deed is too dastardly when it comes to stealing Hook's treasure. And with the ever-shifting Whens of the Neverland working against her as well, Jocelyn, Evie, Roger, and the rest of the Hook's Revenge crew have their work cut out for them.

In this rambunctious showdown between characters new and old, Jocelyn puts her own brand of pirating to the test in a quest to save her future and those she loves.

The Pirate Code Details

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From Reader Review The Pirate Code for online ebook

N.N. Light says

I've loved the Peter Pan/Hook stories ever since I was little. My mother thought I wanted to be Tinkerbell but in reality I wanted to be a pirate. Pirating seemed much more fun than flying around.

I read this book totally unaware of book one or what it was about. I liked the blurb and decided to request it from the publisher. Boy, am I glad I did! I have only a few words for you:

Run to your favorite retailer and pick up this book RIGHT NOW!!!

It's a fast-paced adventure that every age will adore. Filled with action, adventure and a main character after my own heart (Hook's daughter). I read it in one sitting. The author wove a fantastic story so real I wanted to jump aboard the ship. Shiver me timbers!

My Rating: 5+ stars

Debby says

4.5 stars

When I read Hook's Revenge last year, I had practically no expectations and got one of my favorite books of 2014. So to say that I was excited for the sequel would be a *bit* of an understatement. *The Pirate Code* is a brilliant follow-up to *Hook's Revenge*, cementing this as one of my favorite middle grade series of all time.

The Pirate Code has everything I love most about middle grade books. Jocelyn continues being awesome and adorable. This little girl takes charge of a pirate ship of adults who act like children, and she's on a mission. She's going to find her father's treasure, and no one's going to stand in her way. She's so strong and stubborn, wonderfully flawed, you just can't help but cheer her on. And her stories are still told by the best, most sarcastic narrator ever. He makes me so happy. And to those who have read the first book - yes, you will probably figure out who it is in this sequel.

The side characters are also completely adorable. Of course there's Roger, but we'll get to him. There's the crew, who are so hilariously immature, and Meriwether, Jocelyn's faerie friend who is too cute for words. But Jocelyn also meets Evie, who she has a bit of a surprise connection and tentative friendship with, and she encounters Tiger Lily on more than one occasion, who, in my opinion, wins all of the awards for taking absolutely *no* shit from Peter Pan. There are some other new allies and villains, and overall, what I love is that all of these characters are so distinct, quirky, and entertaining.

The plot of this book is mostly focused on this treasure hunt that Hook left behind. It has all the qualities of the best middle grade adventure stories. There are battles, betrayal, puzzles, and much exploration of Neverland. My absolute favorite part came right at the end, where there was a riddle that was totally reminiscent of *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* - the potions test to get to the stone. *So much fun*. I actually got out a pen and paper to solve it myself, so YEAH, I was very much entertained and engrossed by this story.

As to the ship, we are in the ocean of feels, yes sir. I mean, it's a middle grade ship - you can't really expect major kissing or whatever - but the feels are *real*. Every time Roger looks at Jocelyn with his "smile just for her", I *died*. And that happened *a lot*. Those two are absolutely adorable and perfect and they will have long and happy lives together. (How much would I give for a kiss between the two though? SO MUCH.)

I think the only thing that really saddens me here is that this is the end of the series for now. I mean, the series might go on, and Schulz has said she has ideas about where it could go, but for now this is the last book contracted for the series. For the record, I could read more about these characters and this world *forever*. This could be a 20 book series and I would still want more. So, Disney. Take note, please. This series is a winner and it deserves more.

Summing Up

The Pirate Code is a delight, and Heidi Schulz is a storytelling master. I love her sarcastic narrator, her wonderfully quirky characters, and all of their entertaining adventures. This is a brilliant series if you want to relax and just have some genuine *fun*. It's one that I'll probably go back to quite often. ROGER AND JOCELYN 4 LYFE.

GIF it to me straight!

Recommended To:

Anyone who has ever liked any kind of middle grade story ever.
(Fans of *Harry Potter*, Lemony Snicket, and Rick Riordan in particular.)

**An electronic advance review copy was provided by the publisher in exchange for an honest review. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the contents of the review.*

L. Chase says

MARRRRRRRRVELOUS!

I didn't think I could like the sequel as much as the first... but I loved it EVEN MORE! This book has all the elements that made the first book so special: adventure, action, silly pirates, a cantankerous narrator, and humor in spades. Plus, it has the added bonus of: more amazingly kick-butt female characters (Tiger Lily and Evie), a scary villain with sharks' teeth, wonderful world-building of Neverland's weird time-sphere, and a heart-wrenching internal conflict involving a family dilemma. I would loyally follow Captain Jocelyn anywhere--across the seas of Neverland and beyond--and I am crossing my fingers for more Hook books!

Bonus points to *The Pirate Code* for allowing me to figure out who the crabby narrator is!

Bottom line: Be a smARRRRRRRRty and read this book! :-)

Heidi Schulz says

Is it bad form to rate your own books? I'm doing it away. I do what I want.

GR says five stars means "It was amazing." Well, that's true. I'm amazed with how Jocelyn's adventure unfolded, how her relationships changed, and frankly, that this story came together in the end. Sometimes writing feels like a miracle.

This book, it was HARD to write. Really hard. For many drafts I wasn't sure if I would fall in love with it, so when I did—and fell hard—it was all the sweeter.

"It was amazing" sounds about right to me.

(Also amazing? John Hendrix's artwork. Did you all see the new cover? GORGEOUS!)

Mel (Daily Prophecy) says

4.5 stars.

SO MUCH FUN.

❀Aimee❀ Just one more page... says

This was a good middle grade read. I think if the cover was less cartoony, it might sell better - especially if the target audience is middle grade girls. It would make a good book to read together as a family at night.

I didn't read the first book in the series, but this does a decent job as a stand alone. The book is written as though someone is telling a child reader the story. He is snarky and acts like an old cranky pirate. His/(her?)asides tend to pop up at the "suspenseful" moments.

There are funny turns of phrase and silly puns throughout the book. There is a lot of imaginative Neverland features. I definitely became more engaged as the book progressed. There is adventure, treasure hunting, booby traps, and shipwrecks. You'll learn a bit about how Neverland time works and spend a little time with Peter Pan (though not much). There are themes of friendship, learning what is important in life, and a theme to follow your own plans for your life.

Thank you Netgalley for a free digital copy in exchange for an honest review.

Diamond says

3.5 stars

Review also featured on my blog, Diamond's Reads

This is a book I started reading the ebook but I just couldn't handle the way the illustrations were and the formatting so I decided I had to just preorder it and then I put it aside and waited for my copy to come (which it did because it was like a day before it came out).

Especially because I had the eARC book I felt like I needed to physically own both. They're such adorable books, really. The ebook form just doesn't give you the same colorful shiny cover with the illustrations as cute and adorable that you can just stare at, it's a different medium and for those of you who know what I mean when I say it's a treasure to own--if you're considering buying it do it. It's delightful and I am certain I will be rereading this series

I like how the middle grade books have gotten more sophisticated like if you want to read this out loud to a kiddo (without calling them kiddo to their face, probably) -- you totally could!

I actually think I want to start reading books out loud to people who don't read much. I think it can be really gratifying because listening to a story is really fun, and for me I usually these days don't have a lot of time to read unless I want to give up my social time (which is hard to give up!) Lol so maybe I'll read this one out loud to some unsuspecting friend next Friday night. haha, maybe Game of Thrones 2 would be better for that...

Anyway, I digress! This was a fantastic book. Full of adventure and I seriously think it was JUST AS GOOD AS THE FIRST BOOK. yeah, no "second book syndrome" here.

Go read it. Now.

I received an advanced electronic copy of this book from the publisher in exchange for my honest review.

Remember to check out my review of book one: [Hook's Revenge](#)

Rachel Patrick says

This review (and others) can be seen in all its properly formatted glory on my blog Beauty and the Bookshelf.

A solid **4 star** read (though I feel like it should maybe be a bit higher) with two hooks up.

I have such a soft spot for Peter Pan retellings. It's not even my favorite fairy tale--I mean, seriously, my blog is called Beauty and the Bookshelf, not Second Shelf to the Right. But there's something about stories based on that story that just pull me in like a pirate to treasure (or rum). Heidi Schulz's spin on the tale is no exception. It started last year with Hook's Revenge, which I absolutely adored, and continued this year with, The Pirate Code, the finale to the duology (though might there be more?). And this sequel does not disappoint. (So you can put your plank away, ya scallywag.)

The Pirate Code starts not long after Hook's Revenge left off (aye, there be spoilers for book one ahead): Jocelyn & Co. defeated the Neverland crocodile, rightfully avenging the death of dear old Captain Hook, and

now Jocelyn is left with a coded map that leads to her father's treasure--because if you didn't know, this series tells the swashbuckling tale of Captain Hook's daughter Jocelyn. What's nice about these books is that they--and Heidi Schulz--do a lot of things well. Neverland is interesting, there are adventures upon adventures, the characters are dimensional and fun, Jocelyn is a fantastically stubborn little thing, and her voice, coupled with that of the narrator's, helps complete the whole thing. It's all just such fun, and something I believe readers of any age will enjoy, and that just makes a book more magical.

I adore Jocelyn. She's a tough cookie who still has some dough in her heart, and her mouth tends to be more spicy than sugary. A la Ramona Quimby and Junie B. Jones, Jocelyn is a sassy, witty, delightful character who's quite memorable. And it doesn't hurt that she has a ragtag crew of awesomeness (#squadgoals) to help her in her adventures. There's Mr. Smee, who I can perfectly picture like the Smee from the Disney animated film, and I love him. And there's Meriwether, the jealous little fairy who likes to hide in Jocelyn's hair. He's one of my favorites. There's something very successful about a character who can be so likable and dimensional but doesn't really utter a word. There are some new characters, too, who I won't mention because of spoilers, but let's just say that I rather liked them. And last but not least is Roger. Now, I know this is Middle Grade, but I ship Jocelyn and Roger so hard. And Roger is an extra great character because he's a such a good friend and a generally good person--and pirate, for that matter--and you just can't help but like him. So the characters--ugly-faced evil enemy pirates included--get an A+++.

I don't want to say too much about The Pirate Code for fear of giving away the story, but I want to take a second to discuss the writing and narrator. Now, if I had to come up with some point of criticism for this book--just because I had to, not because it's worth mentioning (because it's not)--I would say that there were a few scenes I wanted more from, or that were just a little too quick. But I think that's also kind of how Middle Grade works--like, a fight scene probably won't go on for ten pages, like it might for YA. So it's not really a complaint. Because really, seriously, honestly--Heidi Schulz can write. Certain novels call for certain kinds of voices, depending on the story and tone and mood and all that, and the one for this series fits perfectly. It's light and witty and full of such charm that's hard to resist. And the narrator--really, this is Jocelyn's story, but every once in a while the narrator will delve into first person point of view, and you remember that you're in two people's heads (sort of), not one, and you can't help but love that narrator, who is also one of my favorite characters. Such wit in this book, such fun, and it goes together like bacon and my mouth. I love it.

Perhaps you, dear reader, are wondering if you should read this book. If you are (and even if you aren't), the answer is yes: you absolutely, positively should. (But read Hook's Revenge first, obviously.) I mean, who needs to fly away to Neverland with Peter Pan when they can hang out with Jocelyn Hook and her fierce pirate crew on the Jolly Roger? This is a refreshing, utterly unique spin on a tale we've heard many, many times, yet it still keeps pretty true to those bits of Neverland we know and love so well. (There's also a conversation in here between Peter Pan and Jocelyn about thimbles, and it's more golden than any pirate or king's treasure, I swear it.) I hope you're ready for a story spun with effortlessly wonderful writing, a colorful cast of characters who are sure to rub off on you in all the best ways (except for nasty pirates who think they're more piratey than you), and that will make you smile from ear to ear...and possibly cry. Because that's what you're getting with this series. And to read it would be an awfully big adventure.

I received a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Hannah says

I really did enjoy both this and the book that preceeded it. I liked the MC quite a bit and was rather invested in Evie and James. Plus, Meriweather amuses me.

If the author decides to write a third book I will definitely be reading it

Gina Denny says

I don't know how to write this review without fangirling all over the place, so instead of flailing about how much cool stuff is in this book (a treasure avalanche! a real avalanche! fairy-dust-related codes!) I'm going to tell you how much I enjoyed reading this book with my kid.

My oldest is 9 years old. I still read to him at night, even though he's perfectly capable of reading novels on his own.

At the end of EVERY chapter, he was begging for more, and more than once I obliged because the story is just that good. At the end of an Artemis Fowl chapter??? NO WAY. I'm DONE, I can't handle more. But this? This I can keep reading.

When the book was supposed to be funny, he was cracking up. One night, we both laughed so hard we couldn't breathe. (It involved nose-picking... and you had to be there)

When a big surprise was revealed, he laugh-cried, his eyes open wide because he couldn't handle it.

When the book was supposed to be sad and touching, he sobbed. Actual, legit tears, sobbing. It didn't help that I was openly weeping, I'm sure, but it's rare that a book can touch us both in exactly the same way.

I know this is one of those things that you just can't say, but I'm going to say it anyway. This book, and this series as a whole, has earned a spot on the shelf with all the books that are meant for my kids but I love and will re-read with them until the end of time. The other series on that shelf? Narnia and Harry Potter.

Pop Bop says

Rambunctious and Breezy

This is an odd but oddly appealing book. Our heroine is Jocelyn Hook, daughter of the Captain Hook of Peter Pan fame. She is now captain of her own ship, has avenged her family honor against the Neverland crocodile, and is on a quest to find her father's legendary treasure.

Part of the odd feeling is that Hook is now a hero, his crew, (Smee and the gang), is now Jocelyn's crew, and the good guys and bad guys are a bit upside down. That's not that new, I guess. There have been at least a dozen Peter Pan and Neverland reimaginings published just within the past year, and Hook comes off better in almost all of them.

But the tone here is a bit odd too. Sometimes Jocelyn is "nice" and gushy. Sometimes she's a pirate captain. Sometimes she's resolute and sometimes she's naive and indecisive. She orders the crew around, but she's

also intimidated by them. At first I struggled with the changes in tone, but once I got used to it I realized that this vacillation made Jocelyn interesting and kept the tale from just being a by-the-numbers pirate treasure hunt story. Indeed, I also began to appreciate that the author hadn't simply "appropriated" the Hook name, (the way people throw "Sherlock Holmes" around). There's a real effort to tie this adventure into what we all know and remember of Peter Pan and Neverland, and to expand instead of just cash in on the Pan franchise.

It helps that Jocelyn gets a fresh group of companions. If she was stuck with Tinkerbell and Peter Pan and the other original characters, well this might have felt more like a knock-off. But here we get a better sidekick, a better mischievous fairy, a new bad guy, and a quest that isn't solely centered on Neverland. Doing that was a gutsy call by the author, but it's one of the things that kept me interested.

So, we get a layered and interesting heroine who commands the stage, a nice adventure, brisk story-telling, some humorous narration, and high energy. That's all good by me.

(Please note that I received a free copy of this book without a review requirement, or any influence regarding review content should I choose to post a review. Apart from that I have no connection at all to either the author or the publisher of this book.)

Nicole says

As seen on The Quiet Concert

Reading Hook's Revenge might have been the best decision I ever made. At the time, I didn't really give Middle Grade a chance but I saw some friends sharing quotes from the book on Goodreads and it sounded so much like a ME book that I found a copy and started reading it almost immediately. And OMG it was one of the most entertaining books I have EVER read. Naturally, the sequel was then at the top of my 2015 most wanted list. And I am happy to report that it was every bit as enjoyable as the first book. In fact, I might have even enjoyed it more, if that is possible.

For starters, the narration is simply genius. It's told in 2nd person by an absolute grump of a man who is both hilarious and unpredictable. It's so good that I'm not just IN LOVE with this series but I'm OBSESSED with it. Just start reading and you'll immediately see what I mean and I promise you that you won't want to put the book down again. It is a delight.

Jocelyn wants nothing more than to be a pirate and go on adventures just like her dear old dad (although in a slightly less fear-inducing way). In Hook's Revenge, she traveled to Neverland to defeat the crocodile who claimed her father's life. Now, with that nasty business taken care of, she's on the hunt for her father's famed treasure trove. But her journey is fraught with obstacles - the infuriating Peter Pan and his lost boys who are anything but helpful, a couple face offs with the terrifying Captain Krueger, and the unexpected (but not unwelcome) arrival of her Mother from a different When - and more. Not to mention, Jocelyn is still trying to figure out how to be a good Captain at the ripe age of 12. And her crew is made up of the poorest excuses for pirates. They are 100% endearing but 100% dysfunctional. And yet I wouldn't have it any other way. I loved the dynamic between all of the characters in this story.

I love the unique perspective on Neverland and all of the characters we've grown familiar with through other stories. I loved the adventure of it all with its unlimited possibilities. It's fun, cute, charming, hilarious,

exciting and more. This is easily one of my favorite series and a must read!

Tara says

The Pirate Code is magnificent--the perfect combination of hilariousness, cleverness, and heart. There's a new character in this book that I absolutely adored. In fact, overall, I think that I loved this sequel even more than the first book in the series. Hat's off to Heidi Schulz for sucking me into her version of Neverland all over again. I won't soon forget my time there.

Colten Hibbs says

It would be an understatement to say this book is "charming". It is an expertly crafted adventure in one of the most beloved fantasy lands of all time.

The voice of the narrator (whose identity I am almost certain of) not only lends Jocelyn's continued story humor, but also weight.

It has the feel of a middle-grade fantasy classic without taking itself too seriously.

The plot moves quickly and effortlessly, and shirks predictability. There were a couple of places I thought I had what was going to happen pinned down then found myself pleasantly surprised and even more engaged. I want to avoid spoilers so I'll just say that the storyline between Jocelyn and Evie is enchanting and absolutely brilliant.

Also the subtle, youthful wisdom woven into Jocelyn's character makes her a creation I'll treasure for ages to come.

If you have kids - this is what they should be reading. Same goes if you're young at heart. This is the adventure for you :-)

Rebecca Petruck says

I could never do the narrator justice in an attempt to imitate his biting wit and droll humor in writing this review--he said so himself. So I'll simply say this book is SO. MUCH. FUN. The humor and one-liners and fantastical details of Neverland are just as good (dare I say, better?) as in HOOK'S REVENGE. And, as in the previous book, this one is full of heart as well. The girl characters are fantastic--fun, powerful, smart, and generally full of awesome. And Jocelyn's friendship with new girl Evie...no spoilers but have a handkerchief ready (or, more likely, your sleeve, you scalliwags). Plus, TREASURE! I know I need say no more, but I will because I can. I <3 this book and so will you! (Or you'll walk the plank, you filthy dogs.)
