The Curse of the Flying Duckman

by

Jana Forkel

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janaforkel@live.de +49 1749997336

1 EXT. MCDUCK MANOR POOL - DAY

DONALD DUCK is sunbathing on his boat, holding a piece of aluminum foil under his chin. A huge shadow moves over his face and body, completely shielding the boat from the sun. Donald takes off his shades and looks up - directly facing the bow of a giant wooden pirate ship, looking into the eyes of a duck-faced wooden mermaid. A giant red bow is tied around the mast.

DONALD

Ahhhh!

He almost falls off his chair. Angrily, he gets up and folds up the aluminum, stomping off the ship.

CUT TO:

2 INT. SCROOGE'S OFFICE - DAY

Donal stomps into SCROOGE MCDUCK's office, wearing only bathing shorts, his face red from the sun and his anger.

DONALD

(angrily) Why is there a giant ship in my pool?

SCROOGE

<u>Yer</u> pool?

DONALD We have an agreement! I park my boat in your pool and in return, stay out of your rooms. You <u>own</u> the harbor, keep your ships there!

SCROOGE Oh, stop this sunburnt squealing ye spitfire! I didnae park any ships in <u>ma</u> pool. Which I could do, whenever I wanted to, by the way.

SCROOGE gets up and walks over to the window, spotting the huge ship.

SCROOGE (yelling out the window) Aye! Jettison that junk ship off ma pool this instant ye pillock!

Nobody answers. Scrooge scrunches his eyebrows.

2.

SCROOGE Alright, then, let's have a look at this thing.

CUT TO:

3 EXT. MCDUCK MANOR POOL - DAY

Scrooge, Donald, the TRIPLETS and MRS. BEAKLEY are standing outside, examining the ship. A huge sticky note is attached to the port-side of the ship, saying "A GIFT to FOR SCROOGE MCDUCK - A SECRET ADMIRER"

Scrooge blushes as he reads these words.

DEWEY Ooh, Uncle Scrooge has a secret admirer!

LOUIE Someone has a crush on Uncle Scrooge!

Dewey and Louie dance around Scrooge, making kissing sounds and faces. Scrooge immediately shakes off the flattery and returns to being grumpy.

SCROOGE

I have enough vessels already. I don't need another one.

HUEY Can we have it? Pleeaaase, Uncle Scrooge!

SCROOGE I can't give a ship to a child! No. I'll give it someone trustworthy and loyal. Someone who would bear up against any danger by my side!

Mrs. Beakley and Donald proudly stand side by side, either one thinking that Scrooge is talking about them, waiting for him to say their name.

> SCROOGE It'll be the perfect gift for Della!

The faces of Mrs. Beakley and Donald immediately drop.

- INTRO -

4 EXT. THE SHIP'S DECK - DAY

Huey, Dewey Louie and Scrooge look through the ship's inventory.

LOUIE Ugh, this is <u>boring</u>, I thought there'd at least be some gold on this ship. Even silver would have been fine.

HUEY Are you kidding me? This ship is rich in history! Look at this amazing carving!

Huey points to the carving along the ship's railing. Louie looks unimpressed.

DEWEY (off-screen) Guys, over here!

Huey and Louie run over to their brother, who is inside the captain's cabin, looking at a fabric mural.

5 INT. CAPTAIN'S CABIN - DAY

The mural depicts the story of a young adventurer duck, sailing the seas. Huey's eyes widen with excitement.

HUEY Guys! That's Sir Francis Drake! We must be on his ship!

Dewey and Louie look at each other, blank-faced.

DEWEY AND LOUIE

Who?

HUEY Oh, only one of the most famous explorers of the sea of <u>all time</u>.

Dewey and Louie shrug their shoulders. The three step closer to the mural. Huey looks at a part of the mural where Francis Drake is holding up a map, sailing through high waives, looking through a telescope. Dewey looks at part of the story where Francis Drake is carried by townspeople, who cheer and celebrate him. Louie looks at Francis Drake standing with one foot on a giant, treasure-filled chest. HUEY, DEWEY AND LOUIE (dreamily, looking each at their specific mural part, simultaneous sigh) That could be me...

SCROOGE comes storming in.

SCROOGE Lads! Look what I found!

He waves around a rolled-up map. The triplets look at each other in excitement.

LOUIE I call dibs on the captain's cabin!

CUT TO:

6 EXT. MCDUCK MANOR POOL - DAY

Wearing pirate costumes, Huey, Dewey and Louie play on the ship. Scrooge carries a box of tools onto the ship, with LAUNCHPAD MCQUACK following him. DELLA, Donald and WEBBY stand around the pool.

> HUEY Are you sure you don't wanna come with us?

DELLA It's okay, I'm helping Webby with a school project.

WEBBY It's about our favorite idols who got stuck on the moon!

LOUIE That sounds highly specific.

LAUNCHPAD

(to himself)

I keep forgetting that you actually go to school sometimes...

DEWEY But Mom, it's <u>your</u> ship.

DELLA You know what? Today, I'll hand the captain duties over to... (looking around) Donald!

DONALD

Me?!

DELLA Yes, you. (patting Donald on the shoulder) You're getting a little rusty, it's time to brush up your adventure skills.

Scrooge comes up on deck again.

SCROOGE Della! Webby! What are ya still doing down there?

Donald seems annoyed that he didn't get a mention.

DELLA I handed over my position as captain to Donald for the day.

Scrooge looks disappointed, of which Donald catches a glimpse. Donald drags himself onto the ship.

SCROOGE (catches himself again) Alright then, time to set sail ya sea serpents!

Scrooge bumps his fist into the air and remains like that. Everybody stands around awkwardly. We zoom out to reveal the ship still in the closed-off pool.

> LAUNCHPAD So, uhh... how do we get out of here?

7 EXT. THE SHIP'S DECK - DAY

The crew, consisting of Donald, Scrooge, Launchpad and the triplets, are out at sea. Donald is trying to peacefully sunbathe on deck, while Launchpad is on the steering wheel.

LAUNCHPAD (yelling) Wave incoming! He turns around the wheel, avoiding a huge wave, which hits and soaks Donald instead. Donald starts throwing a tantrum, spitting out a bunch of unintelligible things. he packs his stuff and walks away.

Enter Huey, with the unfolded map in his hand.

HUEY Guys, I feel like something seems off about this map. It looks so...new.

Dewey grabs the map from Huey's hands and looks at it.

DEWEY Yeah, it doesn't look gross and filthy like other treasure maps.

LOUIE I don't care who old this treasure is, as long as it's money.

An almost see-through, green-ish boney hand taps Louie on the shoulder from behind. He swirls around. Nothing's there.

LOUIE Okay, ha ha, very funny. Who was that?

HUEY What are you talking about?

LOUIE Someone just tapped me on the shoulder.

Huey and Dewey look at each other, then back to Louie and shrug.

A ghostly mouth appears behind Dewey's neck, blowing a gust of wind into the back of his head. Dewey grabs his neck.

DEWEY

What was that?

The faint, sinister sound of a piano playing can be heard, with more instruments joining in.

Something seems to click with Dewey.

DEWEY (completely unimpressed) Ohhh, I get it. It's a ghost ship. LOUIE

Oh yeah

HUEY That makes a lot of sense.

CUT TO:

Launchpad is still steering the boat, as the sky darkens and it gets windier, while the music gets louder.

LAUNCHPAD Uhh, does anybody else hear that music that sounds vaguely like a ghost pirate introductory number?

Suddenly, the ghosts of the crew member start the emerge from all corners of the ship, dancing around and breaking into song:

LYRICS:

Welcome aboard the Flying Duckman

Try to escape this ship?

Haha! Good luck, then.

We've explored the sea

No stopping, no docking for centuries

Uncovered all its secrets, all its mysteries

But the biggest mystery of all

Is the time of our final call

We've been cursed to sail for eternity

But on all of our days here we yearn for thee

I want freedom!

I want back to my family!

Aye, on every day we just wait for thee.

400 years ago, this misery began

And ever since

We've been stuck

on the Flying Duckman.

So, come join our crew

It's all up to you

- Well, actually...it's not -

Let's play a game, get to know each other

Don't worry, we've got time for another.

And another! AND ANOTHER!

(Dewey has joined in, dancing and singing along with the crew)

Welcome aboard the Flying Duckman

Try to escape this ship?

Haha! Good luck, then!

(End of song)

The triplets and Scrooge stand around, terrified, while Launchpad is applauding the crew.

LAUNCHPAD Yeah! Woo-hoo! Great song!

Donald runs up to the deck from his cabin

DONALD What are you guys doing up heeeer-AHHHH! G-g-g-GHOSTS!

A CREW MEMBER of the pirates puts an arm around Launchpad's shoulders.

CREW MEMBER So, you must be our captain, then?

DONALD Actually. I'm the captain.

CREW MEMBER What? What is he saying? SCROOGE

He's saying that he's the captain of this ship...temporarily.

CREW MEMBER

Is he? Oh.

He lets go of Launchpad.

PIRATE #2 So, what did you do to the old captain?

HUEY Nothing! We have no idea what happened to Sir Drake!

PIRATE #2

Drake?

(he starts laughing) Not that whiny poltroon! I'm talking about Blackbeak! The most infamous pirate of the seven seas.

HUEY

Well, technically, the International Hydrographic Organization lists over 70 distinct bodies of water called seas, but-

LOUIE Shut up, Huey!

DEWEY We swear, we have no idea what happened to-

SCROOGE

Uh, Lads?

Scrooge points to a vaguely skull-shaped island that the ship is sailing right into, about to run aground.

Launchpad runs over to the steering wheel, trying to steer away from the island, but, of course, crashing directly into it, with everybody else screaming at the top of their lungs.

EVERYONE

Ahhhh!

Slowly, the ship comes to a halt, but not without destroying

most of its bow. The triplets flinch.

LAUNCHPAD Welp. That could've gone worse.

DONALD Nooo! My beautiful ship!

SCROOGE Again, <u>temporarily</u>.

The ghost pirates' eyes light up upon seeing the crashed ship.

PIRATE #1 Wait, is this it? Are we free?

The pirates cheer and run over to the railing, trying to jump over board. The seem to crash into an invisible wall instead and fall back onto the ship.

Pirate #2 rubs his head.

PIRATE #2 Nope, still cursed.

Scrooge holds up the map and compares it to the island.

SCROOGE Lads! This is it. This is the treasure island on the map.

LOUIE Wow, this all worked out unusually well. (he pulls out a pair of sunglasses and puts them on) Okay, have fun digging through dirt while I sunbathe on the beach.

DEWEY You don't wanna find the treasure?

LOUIE No, Dewford, I want to <u>have</u> the treasure. Big difference.

He's off to the cabin.

SCROOGE

Let's go!

Scrooge is about to jump off the ship, but Donald grabs him by the collar and holds him back.

DONALD Oh, no, no, no. You will stay here and help me fix <u>Della's</u> ship. SCROOGE But the treasure! (Donald is crossing his arms, impatiently)

Ugh. Fine. Launchpad, you go watch the boys. (he thinks for a second) No, wait. Boys! Go watch Launchpad.

Huey, Dewey and Launchpad jump off the ship, cheering, and enter the island. Louie returns from the cabin, wearing Bermuda shorts, sunglasses and carrying a beach towel.

CUT TO:

8 EXT. ISLAND JUNGLE - DAY

Huey, Dewey and Launchpad try and make their way through the jungle. Dewey holds up the treasure map.

DEWEY

I don't get it. This map just ends here. No clues on where to find the treasure.

HUEY According to rule 108 of the Junior Woodchuck Guidebook, when searching for treasure on an island, you should always start in the middle.

DEWEY Your guidebook really has a rule for everything, huh?

We hear a rustling in the woods. The blade of a huge saber appears in frame, pointing at the boys and Launchpad (LP). Lp turns around and looks right at the tip of the blade. He moves his eyes up the blade.

> LAUNCHPAD Uh, guys? What was the name of that

infamous pirate captain again?

HUEY Blackbeak. Why do you-

Huey stops talking, as he and Dewey turn around and their eyes widen with terror.

BLACKBEAK, a scary-looking pirate duck with a, as the name says, black beak, an eyepatch, a few golden teeth and one wooden leg, greets the boys and LP with a menacing smile. To their surprise, Blackbeak is a <u>woman</u>.

BLACKBEAK

Ahoy!

CUT TO:

9 EXT. THE BEACH - DAY

Scrooge and Donald are working on fixing the ship.

SCROOGE Donald, hand me that screwdriver, will ya?

Donald ignores him. A ghost-hand reaches out to Scrooge. He takes the screwdriver without looking.

SCROOGE Thanks, Don-(he notices the ghost) AH! Thanks, uh... mate.

Scrooge looks over to Donald, concerned. He walks over.

SCROOGE What's eating you, today? You seem angrier than usual.

DONALD

Nothing.

SCROOGE (scoffs) Fine, ya petulant pighead. Don't talk to me then.

DONALD (as Scrooge walks away) I bet you wish Della were here instead of me. Scrooge stops and looks up.

SCROOGE What makes you think that?

DONALD You always favored Della over me!

SCROOGE What are you talking about? No I didn't!

DONALD (getting angry) Yes, you did! You always paid more attention to her when we were on adventures! She has always been your favorite...

SCROOGE (angry) You're not my children, I'm allowed to have a favorite!

This really hurts Donald.

DONALD Well, then... I guess it should have been me instead of her, in that rocket.

SCROOGE (concerned) Donald...

Donald turns his back to Scrooge, trying to fix the ship.

Two pirate ghosts have been watching the fight from the ship, eating ghost-popcorn.

PIRATE #1 Fight! Fight! Fight!

Pirate #2 hits Pirate #1 with his elbow, giving him an admonishing look.

PIRATE #1 (defensive) What? This is the best entertainment we've had in centuries! Pirate #2 rolls his eyes.

CUT TO:

10 EXT. ISLAND JUNGLE - DAY

We look into the faces of Huey, Dewey and Launchpad.

FLIP THE CAMERA TO REVEAL THAT THEY'RE HANGING FROM ROPES, UPSIDE DOWN, THEIR MOUTHS COVERED.

Blackbeak is walking in circles around them.

BLACKBEAK So... who dares to enter <u>my</u> jungle?

HUEY (unintelligible muffling through a cloth)

Blackbeak pulls the cloth off his face.

HUEY I- I'm Huey, Lady uhh.. mate.

BLACKBEAK (yelling) HUEY?!

HUEY Hubert, my name's Hubert.

Blackbeak pulls Dewey's cloth off.

BLACKBEAK

And you?

DEWEY I'm Dewford

BLACKBEAK Hahaha! Nice try! No one would name their child Dewford! What an absurd name!

Dewey frowns. Blackbeak uncovers Launchpad's mouth.

LAUNCHPAD Ha! You should meet the third - ouch! Dewey head-butts Launchpad, to stop him from revealing that they're not alone.

BLACKBEAK How did you find this island?

HUEY Someone gave our uncle your ship. We found a map inside that led us here.

Blackbeak's eyes light up.

BLACKBEAK You brought the Flying Duckman?

The three nod.

DEWEY Listen. You can have your ship, we came here for the treasure.

BLACKBEAK (pretends not to care) Well, then. Good luck. I'll reclaim my ship.

Blackbeak turns around and pretends to walk away, as Huey, Dewey and LP start getting nervous.

> HUEY Wait! We know about the curse.

Blackbeak stops and smirks cunningly. She turns around, putting up an act.

BLACKBEAK

And?

DEWEY And...maybe we could make a deal.

BLACKBEAK And what kind of deal would that be?

HUEY We will help you break the curse if you help us find the treasure and get us back home on your ship.

BLACKBEAK And why would I trust two little LP shrugs.

LAUNCHPAD

Some call me a pelican, others think I'm just a big duck. I don't really know the difference.

BLACKBEAK

Alright, fine. See that cave at the foot of the mountain over there? The treasure's in there. It's in a chest. Get the chest, bring it to me and I'll bring you guys home.

HUEY But what about the curse?

BLACKBEAK We'll cross that bridge when we get there.

Blackbeak cuts the ropes off and LP, Huey and Dewey drop to the ground. Immediately, Blackbeak holds her sable up to their necks again.

BLACKBEAK

Now go!

Terrified, the three run off.

BLACKBEAK (to herself) And return to me what's mine.

CUT TO:

11 EXT. THE SHIP - DAY

Scrooge comes back to Donald.

DONALD What is it now?

SCROOGE I want to show you something.

He opens his coat, revealing a stack of pictures that unfolds

in the inner lining of his jacket. The pictures show Donald and Della as children. Donald looks surprised.

SCROOGE I put them in there the day you and Della moved in with me.

Donald listens carefully.

SCROOGE

I paid more attention to Della because she constantly got herself into trouble. You have always been the responsible one out of the two of you. That's why Della left her boys with you. She knew you would take good care of them.

Donald smiles.

SCROOGE

I'm sorry I made you think she was my favorite. I love you both equally. And the boys, of course. Truce?

Scrooge holds his hand out to Donald, but Donald steps in and hugs him instead, to Scrooge's surprise.

CUT TO:

12 EXT. THE BEACH - DAY

Louie is still sunbathing, when he looks up and takes off his sunglasses, seeing the palm trees start to shake and the island seemingly "move". The ground looks like it's raising up sand. Louie looks confused. He turns around to see Scrooge and Donald hugging, over at the ship.

> LOUIE Woah! Am I hallucinating? I think I got a heatstroke.

> > CUT TO:

13 EXT. CAVE - DAY

Launchpad is carrying a treasure chest out of the cave, with Huey and Dewey following him.

> LAUNCHPAD Welp, that was surprisingly easy.

Yeah, we just walked in there, grabbed the chest and walked out. No booby traps, no evil spirits or guardians. I could get used to this.

Blackbeak pops up directly in front of their faces again, hanging from a tree, upside-down. She grabs the chest from Launchpad.

> BLACKBEAK Aaaand thank you for that.

DEWEY AND HUEY

Hey!

Blackbeak is about to disappear in the trees again, when suddenly, the whole island begins shaking. Vines start shooting off the trees and grabbing Huey, Dewey, LP and Blackbeak by their feet, along with wrapping around the treasure chest. They're all lifted up into the air, as if the island grabbed them with its hand, holding them up to its "face". Blackbeak's sabre falls to the ground.

Everybody screams. Blackbeak dangles on the left, the other three on the right, with the chest swinging back and forth in the middle.

> LAUNCHPAD Ohhh! Guys, I think I just got it. This is the trap.

Huey, Dewey and Blackbeak give him a "you don't say" look.

HUEY Dewey, Launchpad, if you try and swing harder, you could push me towards the chest and I'll grab it!

Dewey and Launchpad start swinging harder, bumping into Huey with every swing, pushing him closer to the chest, while Huey tries to wiggle one hand out of the vine that is wrapped around. Blackbeak tries to to the same on her side, both sides racing for the chest.

Finally, Huey manages to pull his hand out of the ropes and reaches out to the chest, barely holding onto it. His hand is right on the lock.

HUEY Okay, so if I calculate this right, I could possibly swing against the chest and kick it up, cutting it-

DEWEY AND LAUNCHPAD (yelling) Just open it!

Nervously, Huey grabs the lock and pulls it open, but right as he opens the chest, he loses his grip on it.

The chest swings over to Blackbeak, who manages to bite into the edge of the opened chest.

BLACKBEAK (triumphantly, muffled) Ha ha!

Suddenly, Blackbeak's sabre flies through the air and cuts through the vine that's wrapped around her, causing her to loose grip on the chest and fall to the ground.

TURN THE CAMERA AROUND TO REVEAL THAT IT'S LOUIE, DONALD AND SCROOGE COMING FOR HELP.

The chest swings back to Huey, who reaches into it and pulls out the "treasure": the bone of a duck's leg.

HUEY

Ew!

He drops the leg in disgust.

LAUNCHPAD A bone? Is this a treasure for a dog?

Louie pokes the leg bone with the sabre.

BLACKBEAK

Careful!

Everybody looks at her.

BLACKBEAK

That's my leg.

DEWEY Okay, you have some explaining to dewey!

HUEY Also, can somebody please cut us free already?

LOUIE Oh, right. Sorry.

He goes over to cut off the three, who all drop to the ground with a loud thump, groaning.

BLACKBEAK (with her sweetest gold-teeth smile) Cut me free first?

LOUIE

Nope.

BLACKBEAK

(her face drops)

Okay, fine.

(The story plays out as she tells it)

I was a bit of a wild child and after attacking my nanny with a knife, my parents decided to marry me off to the next best guy who would take me. And so I met Sir Francis Drake, who became my husband. Only that I wasn't very interested in being his wife. I wanted his ship. One night, I snuck out of our house and went down to the harbor, wanting to steal the ship and sail away on it. But his mother caught me and we got in a fight, where I lost this

(she nods towards the leg bone) I managed to get on the ship and leave, but his mother cursed me and bound the curse to my lost leg, which she threw on the ship. She cursed me to sail the ocean for all eternity with a crew of ghosts, and I was forced to take my cursed leg with me, wherever I went, to remind me of her.

The island starts moving again.

SCROOGE Speed your story up a little, will ya?

BLACKBEAK Yeah, anyway. So, one day while we were out on the sea, this guy named "Flintheart Glomgold" pulls up with his speedboat and challenges me to a game of poker. He says, If I win, he'll rid me of the curse, but if I loose, he gets the ship. Needless to say, I lost the ship. He said something about giving it as a "present" to his arch-nemesis.

SCROOGE

(slightly disappointed)
I knew I didn't have a "secret
admirer"! Curse ya, Glomgold!

BLACKBEAK

I was stupid enough to tell him about the curse and my leg, so he sailed out to this island and gave my leg to some kind of assistant of his to hide in that cave, where you found it. Only the ones free of sin are allowed to enter the cave.

LOUIE

(to himself) Good thing, I didn't come with you.

BLACKBEAK

Before he left, I managed to draw the map and give it to his assistant to hide on the ship, hoping that somebody would find it and come to the island, so I could get off it again.

HUEY

Why didn't you just say so? We would have helped you!

BLACKBEAK

To be fair, I thought you only came here for the "treasure".

LOUIE AND SCROOGE (simultaneously)

I did.

Suddenly, the vines start swinging around like crazy and a volcano in the middle of the island looks like it's about to erupt.

SCROOGE Great story, lass, but I think it's time to get off this island. Now!

BLACKBEAK Please take me with you! No more tricks, I swear.

Everybody looks at each other, trying to find an answer in the other's looks. Huey and Dewey nod. Louie cuts Blackbeak free, right in time for them to run back to the ship, as the volcano starts spewing out lava. Blackbeak grabs her leg and they start running.

In a race against the lava and the rage of the island, the gang runs back to the ship, yelling and waving at the crew to get it ready. The ghost crew, who has been relaxing and sleeping on the ship, snoring loudly, suddenly jumps up and gets the ship ready. They start cheering at the sight of their captain.

They climb up the rope ladder hanging off the ship, Donald is last. A tiny spark of fire hits his rump and he jumps up, grabbing his rump, which catapults him on deck.

The gang sail away.

CUT TO:

14 EXT. DUCKBURG HARBOR - DAY

The Flying Duckman enters the harbor of Duckburg. Huey, Dewey, Louie, Scrooge, Donald and LP get ready to leave the ship.

DEWEY

SO, who's gonna tell Mom that ghost pirates boarded her ship? Not it.

Dewey touches his nose. Everybody except Donald quickly does so, too.

DONALD

Ah, phooey.

HUEY Thanks for bringing us home and not killing us.

Blackbeak gives them a genuine smile. Pirate #1 comes running up from behind, holding the "precious" bone.

He holds up the bone, which disintegrates into sand before their eyes.

BLACKBEAK (gasps) Can it be?

DEWEY (skeptical) Wait. In 400 years of being cursed, have you never considered doing something...nice?

In the background, Louie raises his eyebrows, weighing up the chances of this happening to him, as well.

BLACKBEAK (shrugs) Not really. I can't believe this is all it took to break the curse. A nice gesture.

One by one, crew members of the Flying Duckman start jumping over board, cheering, swimming around in the water with joy.

Blackbeak scoops up some of the sand and puts it in a jar.

BLACKBEAK Here. I want you to have this.

She tries to give it to the triplets, but none of them really want to take what's essentially her ashes. Launchpad shrugs.

LAUNCHPAD I'll take it.

He grabs the jar, satisfied.

HUEY Where are you off to, now?

Blackbeak turns around to look at her crew and smiles.

BLACKBEAK I think it's time to go...home.

Scrooge puts his arms around the boys' shoulders.

SCROOGE That's my cue. Come on, lads. Let's go home.

He turns the triplets around and they start walking, almost forgetting Donald again, but then he extends his arms to Donald's shoulders, who smiles with relief. Launchpad, who is actually left out, looks around in confusion, before he quickly follows along.

FADE OUT.