

(PETER climbs over the railing carrying an over-sized alarm clock [Bar 19] as the PIRATES gather at the opposite ends of the rail listening to what they think is the CROCODILE - then over the rail following PETER come the ~~RUNAWAYS~~, the ANIMALS and LIZA last of all. The BOYS and WENDY greet them silently and PETER guides the ~~RUNAWAYS~~ and ANIMALS into the cabin and below decks. ALL scurry to hiding places. The OSTRICH puts her head in a cannon. PETER throws a tarpaulin over her tail.

LIZA has no place to hide. All boxes, nooks and crannies are occupied. PETER opens the cabin door and beckons to her and pops a barrel over her. The mop still sticks up over the top. WENDY and BOYS resume their frightened attitude as the ticking stops)

SMEE

It is gone, Captain! There is not a sound.

(Immensely relieved, HOOK leaps to action with a heel click.)

HOOK

(With gay abandon to the BOYS)

Thought I was frightened, eh? How would you like a touch of the cat before you walk the plank?

(He is more pitiless than ever now that he believes he has a charmed life.)

Fetch the cat, Jukes; it is in the cabin.

JUKES

Ay, ay, sir.

(HE goes below)

#50 - The Song of the Cat

HOOK

(Sings unaccompanied)

HE'S OFF TO GET THE CAT,
THE MEAN AND SCRATCHEDY CAT.
THE STING OF ALL NINE OF ITS TERRIBLE TAILS -

(From the dark cabin comes a curdling screech [JUKES] which wails through the ship and dies away. It is followed by a sound, almost more eerie in the circumstances, that can only be likened to the crowing of a cock.)

What was that?

(CECCO swings into the cabin, and in a moment returns, livid.)

(With an effort)

What is the matter with Bill Jukes, you dog?

CECCO

He's dead — stabbed.

PIRATES

Bill Jukes dead!

CECCO

The cabin is as black as a pit, but there is something terrible in there: the thing you heard a-crowing.

HOOK

(Slowly)

Cecco, go back — and fetch me out that doodle-doo.

CECCO

(Unstrung)

No, Captain, no.

(He supplicates on his knees, but his master advances on him implacably.)

HOOK

(In his most syrupy voice)

Did you say you would go, Cecco?

CECCO

No, no! Please, Captain, don't make me! All right! All right!

(CECCO goes. All listen. There is one screech, one crow.)

HOOK

'Sdeath and oddsfish, will no one fetch me out that doodle-doo?

(No one steps forward.)

STARKEY

(Injudiciously)

Wait till Cecco comes out.

#51 — Mutiny Music

(The black looks of some others encourage him.)

HOOK

I think I heard you volunteer, Starkey.

STARKEY

(Emphatically)

No, by thunder!

HOOK

(In that syrupy voice which might be more engaging when accompanied by his flute.)

My hook thinks you did. I wonder if it would not be advisable, Starkey, to humour the hook?

STARKEY

I'll swing before I go in there.

PIRATES

Aye, aye. (etc.)

HOOK

(Gleaming)

Is it mutiny? Then Starkey is ringleader. Come on, Starkey! I want you to taste the hook!

STARKEY

No! No!!

HOOK

Come on, Starkey! Shake hands, Starkey!

(STARKEY recoils from the claw. It follows him till he leaps overboard.)

Did any other gentleman say mutiny?

(They indicate that they did not even know the late STARKEY.)

I'll go in and fetch that doodle-doo meself.

#52 - Hook Takes Charge

(With a lighted lantern in his hand he enters the cabin. Not a sound is to be heard now on the ship, HOOK staggers out.)

HOOK

(Unsteadily)

Something blew out the light.

NOODLER

(With dark meaning)

Some - thing?

PIRATE

What of Cecco?

HOOK

He's as dead as Bill.

(Panic amongst the PIRATES)

PIRATES

(General ad lib)

It's Hook's fault. He's a devil. We're doomed. The ship's doomed. The devil's aboard. Aye, and he has a hook! (etc.)

(Knives and pistols come to hand. Hearing something like a cheer from the BOYS, HOOK wheels around and his face brings them to their knees.)

NOODLER

Poor Cecco!

PIRATE

It's Hook's fault!

HOOK

Now lads, here is a notion: open the cabin door and drive *them* in. Let *them* fight the doodle-doo. If they kill him we are so much the better; if he kills them we are none the worse.

#53 - Boys Into Cabin

(This masterly stroke restores their confidence; and the boys, affecting fear, are driven into the cabin. Desperadoes though the pirates are, some of them have been boys themselves, and all turn their backs to the cabin and listen, with arms outstretched to it as if to ward off the horrors that are being enacted there. The barrel shifts its position to keep near WENDY)

Relieved by Peter of their manacles, and armed with such weapons as they can lay their hands on, the boys steal out softly as snowflakes, and under their captain's hushed order find hiding-places on the poop).

PETER is now disguised as a whiskered pirate and takes his place with the crew.)

PIRATE

The doodle-doo has killed them all!

NOODLER

The ship's bewitched!

(They are snapping at HOOK again.)