

Book Review

Elaine S. Wiener

Top Secret Files: Pirates & Buried Treasure

Stephanie Bearce

Prufrock Press Inc.

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Another *Top Secret Files* and this time it scared me! Who knew that there were so many facts about pirates? Who really cares? I didn't. But you know the author, Stephanie Bearce. She can make you care about anything she writes. This time she takes us back to 1650-1730.

Like all *Top Secret Files*, this book has pictures and little, different shaped boxes with wonderful facts. The *Top Secret Files* books are aimed at 9-12 year olds, but every adult will love them. The information will fascinate all ages.

Listen to the beginnings of *Pirates and Buried Treasure*:

"Pirating sounds like a grand life. Sailing on the warm sunny seas just looking for the next ship that could be filled with treasure. Fighting your enemies and earning piles of gold and jewels. And you don't need a bank because you can just bury your plunder, make a map, and come back for it later after you're tired of salt water and sandy beaches.

The true life of a pirate was actually very short and hard. Most people who became pirates were either killed in battles or were caught and hanged. Some of the pirates, like Blackbeard, had their heads cut off and put on public display to warn other people not to go into the pirate business..."

When you read the details of the lives of pirates, there is no glamor or consistent reward. But Stephanie Bearce explains the causes with so many historical facts that we of modern times really understand the past history.

The book is divided into 1-Pirate Problems, 2-Weapons, Words, and Wardrobe
3-VIPS (Very Important Pirates) and 4-Pirate's Treasures.

Buy this book for your classrooms and your children, but please don't forget to read it yourselves!

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