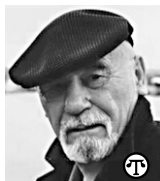


Adventures In Reading

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE IN A SWASHBUCKLING TALE FROM A BEST-SELLING AUTHOR

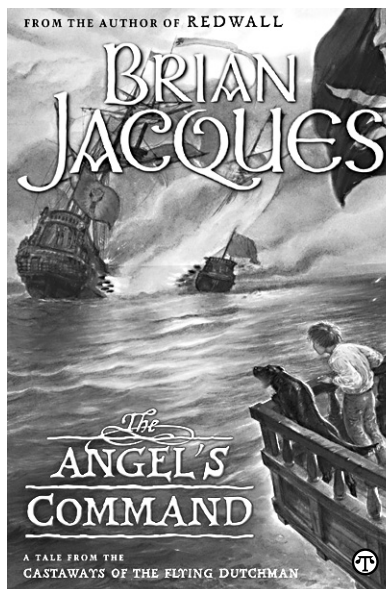
(NAPSA)—Critics are calling the thrilling new adventure from Brian Jacques, the best-selling author of the Redwall books, a cliffhanger. And they are right. Jacques's latest, *The Angel's Command* (Philomel Books, \$23.99), continues the story of 12-year-old Ben and his telepathic



Brian Jacques

dog, Ned, who were part of the doomed crew of *The Flying Dutchman*. Captained by the evil Venderdecken, the ship and all who sailed on her were sentenced by an Angel to sail the world for all of eternity. Ben and Ned suffer the same curse, but because they were true innocents, they are commanded to wander the world for eternity to help people in distress.

The novel, a sequel to *The Castaways of The Flying Dutchman*, is divided into two parts. In part 1, *La Petite Marie*, it is 1632, and Ben and Ned are in the Caribbean—home to the most bloodthirsty pirates ever to sail the oceans. Befriended by a good-spirited French pirate, Captain Thuron, Ben and Ned sail aboard his ship, which the freebooter Captain Redjack Teel is doing his utmost to send to the bottom of the sea. Author Jacques leads the reader



In his latest book, the author of the world-renowned REDWALL novels shows he can depict human characters and situations with drama, humor, warmth and excitement, while keeping readers at the edge of their seats.

on a merry chase among the islands of the Caribbean as Captain Thuron skips in and out of ports, hiding behind islands, yet all the while trying to sail back to his home in France to give up pirating forever. Ben and Ned experience

sea chases and battles, mutiny, hidden treasures of gold, all the while trying to aid their captain and friend to escape his enemies.

But it's the second part, *The Razan*, that Jacques's ability to tell strong, dramatic tales is fully realized. Ben and Ned, leaving their sea ventures behind them, meet two young people—Karay a young gypsy maid with a will of iron and an imagination that can overcome all obstacles; and Dominic, the Face Maker of Sabada, whose mysterious ability to capture on canvas the inner soul rather than the outward aspect of a person, has made him many friends...and many enemies.

Chases through mountain passes, deep in snow; avalanches, imprisonment in a dank dungeon and the friendship of a shaggy old bear, are only a few facets of Ben, Ned, Dominic and Karay's adventures.

New York Times best-selling author Brian Jacques was born in Liverpool, England. His storytelling skills began to take shape when he volunteered to read to the students at the Royal Wavertree School for the Blind. The storytelling for blind students gave him the idea for Redwall and honed his descriptive writing style.

The Angel's Command is available at bookstores everywhere.