

*Pirate  
Family Smith*

**Chapter  
4**

“NO WAY!” yelled Bo, throwing himself at Purple’s stomach and knocking the huge pirate onto the ground. Purple’s sword flew into the air and Bo caught it.



“My Ruby Sword!” gasped Purple, who had banged his head on the ground and was feeling a bit woozy.

Everyone froze.

Bo stood over Purple, pointing the sword and twisting it menacingly in his hand like a venomous snake. “Now you give us that piece of wood back, make your crew drop their swords and agree to let us leave this island without being attacked again and I will return your sword.”

## Pirate Family Smith

“We don’t do deals with low-down scumbags!” shouted Pirate Smith. “Don’t give his sword back, son.”

But Bo ignored his father and stared down at Purple.

Purple cleared his throat and swallowed a couple of times. “That sword is very precious to me,” he croaked, “my father’s aunt gave it to me.”

“You know what the deal is,” said Bo firmly. “I haven’t heard your answer yet.”

Purple looked very embarrassed to be dealing with a child but after a few moments of thinking, he slowly nodded his head. “Give me my sword back,” he demanded.



“The key and the other swords first,” said Bo, “and you lot must stay here until we’ve set sail on our boat. Once we’ve left we’ll throw your swords onto the beach and you can come and get them.”

“But...but...”

“No buts!” snarled Bo. “You heard what I said. Now, deal or no deal?”

“Alright then... deal,” muttered Purple angrily. His men threw their swords on the ground and Hope hurriedly picked them up.

Purple held up the wooden star-shaped key. Bo took it and popped it into his jacket pocket. "Remember," he said. "None of you move until we've set sail."

Purple nodded.

So Bo, Hope, Vera and Pirate Smith started walking away, keeping their eyes on their rivals, who, true to Purple's word, didn't move a muscle.

Vile, Ears and Toe-rag were on board to meet them and it wasn't long until *The Dusty Brig* was pulling away from the shore. Keeping his side of the bargain, Bo held up Purple's Ruby Sword and threw it high into the air. The other swords followed. They all landed with a thud on the beach and a minute later he saw Purple and his men rushing onto the sand. Purple picked up his Ruby Sword and shook it in the air. Was he threatening Bo and the crew or saluting them? It was impossible to tell.

Immediately, Pirate Smith set to work, trying to insert the star-shaped wooden key into the star-shaped hole. But it was too large for the hole. It didn't unlock anything. It just turned and turned back.

"AAARRRGGGHHH!" yelled Pirate Smith. "This so-called 'key' doesn't do anything!"

"What are we going to do?" asked Bo miserably.

"We'll set a course for King Hugo's palace," announced Pirate Smith with a heavy heart, dropping the star on top of the chest. "I shall have to work out what to say to him when we show up with the treasure chest but no treasure."

"We could tell him the chest itself is worth a fortune," suggested Vile.

"The King is many things but he's not a fool," sighed Pirate Smith.

Hope walked over to Bo and they sat down together on a bench. "What you did back there was amazing," she said. "You saved my neck, Bo, thank you!" She punched him playfully on the arm.

## Pirate Family Smith

Bo stood up and walked over to the chest. He picked up the wooden star key and turned it over in his hands, deep in thought. He tapped it, he prodded it and then in frustration, he hit it hard against a metal pole. Something strange happened. There was a fizzing sound and a hole opened on the underside of the wood. A smaller star-shaped key, this one made of marble, dropped out.

“Hope!” he shouted, “Come here!”

He showed her the marble key and placed it in the star-shaped hole. It fitted perfectly. Before he could turn it, there was a faint clanging sound and the chest started shaking. An instant later, secret wooden panels started fanning out from the lid of the chest.

Bo and Hope stared in astonishment because each panel had a semi-circular groove carved into it and these grooves were filled with the most incredible precious gems that either of them had ever seen.

