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# Mystery at Blackbeard's Cove

## By Audrey Penn

### Illustrated by Joshua Miller & Philip Howard

*A pirate's life for me, for me,  
A pirate's life for me*

Secret underground tunnels...hidden pirate treasure...life or death situations and more abound in **MYSTERY AT BLACKBEARD'S COVE**. Set on Ocracoke Island on the Outer Banks of North Carolina (an area Blackbeard and his crew frequented), historical locations and events are woven into this rollicking adventure of four kids who try to help fulfill an old woman's last wish while stumbling into danger along the way. Will they find the diamonds and treasures they seek? Will they escape the endless tunnels in which they become trapped by evil Zeek Hands – local scoundrel and direct descendant of one of Blackbeard's henchmen?

When eccentric, old Mrs. McNemmish dies, her final wish is to be buried at sea, so she can join the crew of her ancestor Blackbeard's pirate ship, and her four young island friends – Billy, Daniel, Stephanie, and Mark – are determined to help make that happen. When they sneak into the local church in the middle of the night, to steal Mrs. McNemmish's body before her traditional burial, one mishap after another occurs before they're able to guide the body to its final resting place in the sea. There begins this rollicking tale of adventure, friendship, and survival.

**Audrey Penn** is the author of *The New York Times* best-selling children's title *The Kissing Hand*, in addition to *Sassafras, Feathers and Fur*, *A.D.D. Not B.A.D.*, *A Pocket Full of Kisses*, and *The Whistling Tree*. *Mystery at Blackbeard's Cove* is her first chapter book. Ms. Penn and her husband live in Olney, Maryland, with their three children.

**Joshua Miller** is an artist who lives with his wife in McLean, Virginia. When he's not creating artwork on the computer, he enjoys working in pencil, and uses graphite sticks on hotpress illustration board.

**Philip Howard** is an artist and direct descendant of William Howard – Blackbeard's quartermaster. He resides on Ocracoke Island, North Carolina, where he is the owner of Village Craftsmen ([www.villagecraftsmen.com](http://www.villagecraftsmen.com)), which offers an extensive selection of fine quality American-made handcrafts.

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**October 2004** ♀ **Ages 8-12**  
**0-9749303-1-8** ♀ **\$14.95/Hardcover**