

# BALLAD of the "MAERSK ALABAMA"

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♩ = 120

© B. Black 4/09

Em Em

In the month of A - - pril oh oh nine ship Off \_\_\_\_\_  
[They] \_\_\_\_\_ bra - - zen - - ly at - - tack the ship To be -

Am Am B

A - - fri - ca's east - - ern shore An A - - mer - - i - can ship is \_\_\_\_\_  
-gin their \_\_\_\_\_ pi - - rate scheme But they strike no \_\_\_\_\_ fear in A -

B Em D Em

south - ward \_\_\_\_\_ bound At \_\_\_\_\_ fif - - teen \_\_\_\_\_ knots or more Her \_\_\_\_\_  
-mer - - i - can hearts Tho' they threat - - en and yell and scream A \_\_\_\_\_

Em Em Am

car - - go of food to sus - - tain the lives Of the con - ti - nent's starv - - ing  
scuf - fle en - sues: one \_\_\_\_\_ pi - - rate less Sub \_\_\_\_\_ dued by a strong - er

Am B B

poor hand But \_\_\_\_\_ e - - vil men have o - - ther plans That her  
"This \_\_\_\_\_ might be hard - - er than we thought!" Thinks the

Em D 1 Em 2 Em CHORUS

crew head must \_\_\_\_\_ soon en - - dure They \_\_\_\_\_ band What  
of the pi - - rate \_\_\_\_\_

*Chorus after vv. 2,4,6*

C G D G Am

works on o - - thers won't work on us As you'll find out in the

B C G D G Am B Em

end You may strike fear in - to the o - - ther guys But it won't work on us, my friend!

continued / / /

IN THE MONTH OF APRIL OH OH NINE / OFF AFRICA'S EASTERN SHORE  
AN AMERICAN SHIP IS SOUTHWARD BOUND / AT FIFTEEN KNOTS OR MORE  
HER CARGO OF FOOD TO SUSTAIN THE LIVES  
OF THE CONTINENT'S STARVING POOR  
BUT EVIL MEN HAVE OTHER PLANS / THAT HER CREW MUST SOON ENDURE

THEY BRAZENLY ATTACK THE SHIP / TO BEGIN THEIR PIRATE SCHEME  
BUT THEY STRIKE NO TERROR IN AMERICAN HEARTS  
THO' THEY THREATEN AND YELL AND SCREAM  
A SCUFFLE ENSUES - ONE PIRATE LESS / SUBDUED BY A STRONGER HAND  
"THIS MIGHT BE HARDER THAN WE THOUGHT!"  
THINKS THE HEAD OF THE PIRATE BAND

(SPOKEN) AND THEN HE HEARS A QUIET VOICE -  
NOT A LITTLE VOICE, JUST A QUIET ONE:

WHAT WORKS ON OTHERS WON'T WORK ON US  
AS YOU'LL FIND OUT IN THE END  
YOU MAY STRIKE FEAR INTO THE OTHER GUYS  
IT WON'T WORK ON US, MY FRIEND!

OUR MARINERS WILL NEVER COOPERATE  
THOUGH THE COWARDS RANT AND RAVE  
THEIR MISSION HAS FAILED - THEY WON'T GET THE SHIP  
BUT THEY MIGHT GET A WATERY GRAVE!  
CAPTAIN PHILLIPS DECIDES ON A DARING PLAN  
AS ONLY A BRAVE MAN WOULD DO:  
LET THE THUGS TAKE A BOAT WITH HIMSELF ABOARD  
AS A HOSTAGE FOR HIS CREW

HIS NEXT DAYS PASS IN MISERY / AS NEGOTIATORS TRY  
TO GET THE CAPTAIN BACK AGAIN / BEFORE SOMEONE HAS TO DIE  
THE US NAVY ARRIVES ON SCENE / STILL THE DESP'RATE GANG WON'T YIELD  
NOT PREDATORS NOW, THEY'VE BECOME THE PREY  
AND THEY KNOW THEIR DOOM IS SEALED

AND THEN THE PIRATE CHIEF REMEMBERS THAT QUIET VOICE:  
WHAT WORKS ON OTHERS ETC ETC

continued / / /

POINT A GUN AT OUR CAPTAIN? - IT'S YOUR LAST MISTAKE  
WITH YOUR LIVES YOU SOON WILL PAY  
AS THE NAVY SEALS DO WHAT THEY DO BEST / FROM A HUNDRED YARDS AWAY  
A GAMBLE TAKEN AND A GAMBLE WON / ON THREE TARGETS HARD TO SEE  
THREE SHOTS - THREE HAPLESS PIRATES DEAD  
AND CAPTAIN PHILLIPS IS FINALLY FREE!

SO LET THE PIRATE WORLD TAKE NOTE: WHEN YOU SEE RED, WHITE, AND BLUE  
TURN YOUR BOATS AROUND AND RUN LIKE HELL / IT'S THE SENSIBLE THING TO DO  
THE MEN WHO SAIL 'NEATH THE STARS AND STRIPES  
HAVE NO STOMACH FOR YOUR GAME  
TRY YOUR BUCCANEER TRICKS ON A U.S. CREW / AND PREPARE TO DIE IN SHAME!

REMEMBER: WHAT WORKS ON OTHERS ETC ETC

YOU'VE MADE US PROUD, ALABAMA'S CREW / NOW A THOUSAND WELCOMES HOME  
FROM THAT DISMAL CORNER OF THE WORLD  
WHERE WE'VE LET THESE PIRATES ROAM  
YOU STOOD UP TO THOSE USELESS THUGS / WHO TERRORIZE THE SEAS  
WE NEED BACKBONE LIKE YOURS TO STOP THEIR PRANKS  
OR THEY'LL KEEP DOING AS THEY PLEASE!

BUT MAYBE THESE SEA-GOING MUGGERS WILL LEARN A LESSON:  
WHAT WORKS ON OTHERS ...