

THE LAND WHALE MURDERS

PROLOGUE: The Thrill of the Krill

AUTHOR

New York City – 1896. The Gilded Age they called it, but behind the glittering face was a city awash in dirt and crime. And the center of crime was The Five Points. A vicious home to vicious gangs who were as vicious as they were vicious, which is to say completely. Our story begins with two goons. Members of the Blow Hole Gang, the 4th toughest gang on the Lower East Side. The 8th Toughest Gang on the Lower West Side and were currently unranked in the Lower Center Side. They had submitted to the rankings, but their application was lost in the mail and the deadline was missed. This put the Plug Uglies ahead in the gang rankings or gangkings as the Portmantotalers Gang called them. But what matters now is these two Blow Hole Gang Goons had their eyes out for a quick crime. Well they each had one eye each on crime because they all wore eyepatches ... whether they needed them or NOT!

P.1:

GOON 1

I love crime.

GOON 2

Aye as do I.

GOON 1

Wanna go commit some?

GOON 2

We could. But I'm still noshing dis here sammich.

GOON 1

Does appear to be a good sammich.

GOON 2

Anchovy and pumpernickel.

GOON 1

Oh's the well let's go back to the lair and plot gang related ganginings.

GOON 2

Indubitably my fellow goon.

AUTHOR

But just as the Blow Hole Goons were about to enter the lair a well- dressed dandy blocked their way ...

A member of the VELVET SPANKERS blocks their path.

VELVET SPANKER

Tut, tut not so fast you slime slingers. The Velvet Spankers have booked this here lair for a shindig. Respect the sign-up sheet! Adieu stinkpots!

The VELVET SPANKER slams the lair door.

GOON 1

Truly we need to get a lair of our own and not be stuck in this lair- share.

GOON 2

Aye, but lair costs in this city are outrageous!

PIRATE PENNY

Perhaps then, I can help you!

GOON 2

A dame! Dressed in crimson like a pirate of old!

GOON 1

And a mask to hide her visage!

PIRATE PENNY

Indeed, I am Pirate Penny and if you join me I can get you a lair to call your own!

GOON 1

Join you! But ...

PIRATE PENNY

Why not? Because I'm a woman?

GOON 1

No, no that's not it. Being criminals we believe in all sorts of terrible things like stealing, loitering, and equal rights for ladies. We got no problem with a skirt giving us orders.

PIRATE PENNY

Then what is it?

GOON 2

Your mask is quite scary.

PIRATE PENNY

A scary mask for a scarier world. Join me Blow Hole Gang and I shall raise you to a level unseen! I have a plan! A villainous plan and it begins NOW!

GOON 2

Now? Oh I was hoping to finish my sammich first ...

PIRATE PENNY

Where we're going sandwiches will be as copious as our crimes. And pasta Thursdays!

GOON 1

By tarnal! We're in, in!

PIRATE PENNY

Now to our new lair! We have evil work to do!

GOON 1

Huzzah for evil!

AUTHOR

And with that Pirate Penny and the Blow Hole Gang joined forces. Later it would become official when they signed the paperwork of the devious union overseen by Finbar Gillium the Notary of Crime who notarized all criminal unions and paperwork. They say his notary stamp was carved from the tibia of his own brother ... who he murdered!

But our actual story involves a group called The Four Elementals who would become entangled in the plot of Pirate Penny and her newly acquired Gang. Who are the Four Elementals? We'll get to that ... later because this is just a taste of the auditory meal to come. A little tale I call: The Land Whale Murders. I've done my best to put the pieces of this history together. I am recounting the story just as it was! So join us, onward to adventure!

END OF PROLOGUE