

ASTER/MOLLY

Aster I'm taking the Queen's treasure to Rundoon aboard

the *Wasp*, but I leave a more precious cargo here on the *Neverland*. Guard her well. (*gives SLANK a gold coin, calls*) Mrs. Bumbrake, bring her to me! (*MOLLY runs to ASTER's outstretched arms.*) Molly, my Molly.

Molly Please let me come with you. I don't like it on this ship.

Aster You're safer here on the *Neverland*. By the time you arrive in Rundoon, I'll have completed my mission, and we'll be together again.

The ship's cat sidles up to MOLLY's legs, meowing affectionately.

Molly Look, Daddy – the cat, the ship's cat. A lucky sign! Here, puss, puss . . .

Aster Molly! Careful!

Molly It's all right, Daddy. Him's a sweet little puss, isn't him . . .

The cat mews sweetly in MOLLY's arms.

Mrs. Bumbrake Our Molly loves all God's little creatures.

MRS. BUMBRAKE hands the purring cat to a passing SAILOR.

Molly (*ever so bravely*) Daddy . . . I know you don't need my help in Rundoon, but I've got to start pulling my weight sometime.

Aster You're all grown up, aren't you.

Molly I am, Daddy. Courage now, promise?

Aster Promise.

Molly (*giving in to tears*) Oh dear.