

Classic Poetry Series

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- poems -

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The Fathers

Traditionally, the same actor plays Captain Hook and Mr. Darling.

-- The Picture Book of Peter Pan (c. 1930)

Something's familiar about that villain striding the deck of the Jolly Roger, chest puffed out under the fancy jabot -- a bit like, yes, like Father huffing around before an evening out, proper shirtfront outthrust by an important bay window. Particular about his cuff links as a pirate about lace at his wrists. Same air of dashing yet dastardly middle age. A penchant for issuing orders and threats, and tying up uncooperative dogs or Indian princesses.

No wonder we sons and daughters laugh when Hook sits on the hot toadstool over Peter's chimney, when Tinker Bell flits out of his grasp. And especially at his slapstick flailing through the sea, pursued by that confident long-jawed beast, time ticking loud in its belly.

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