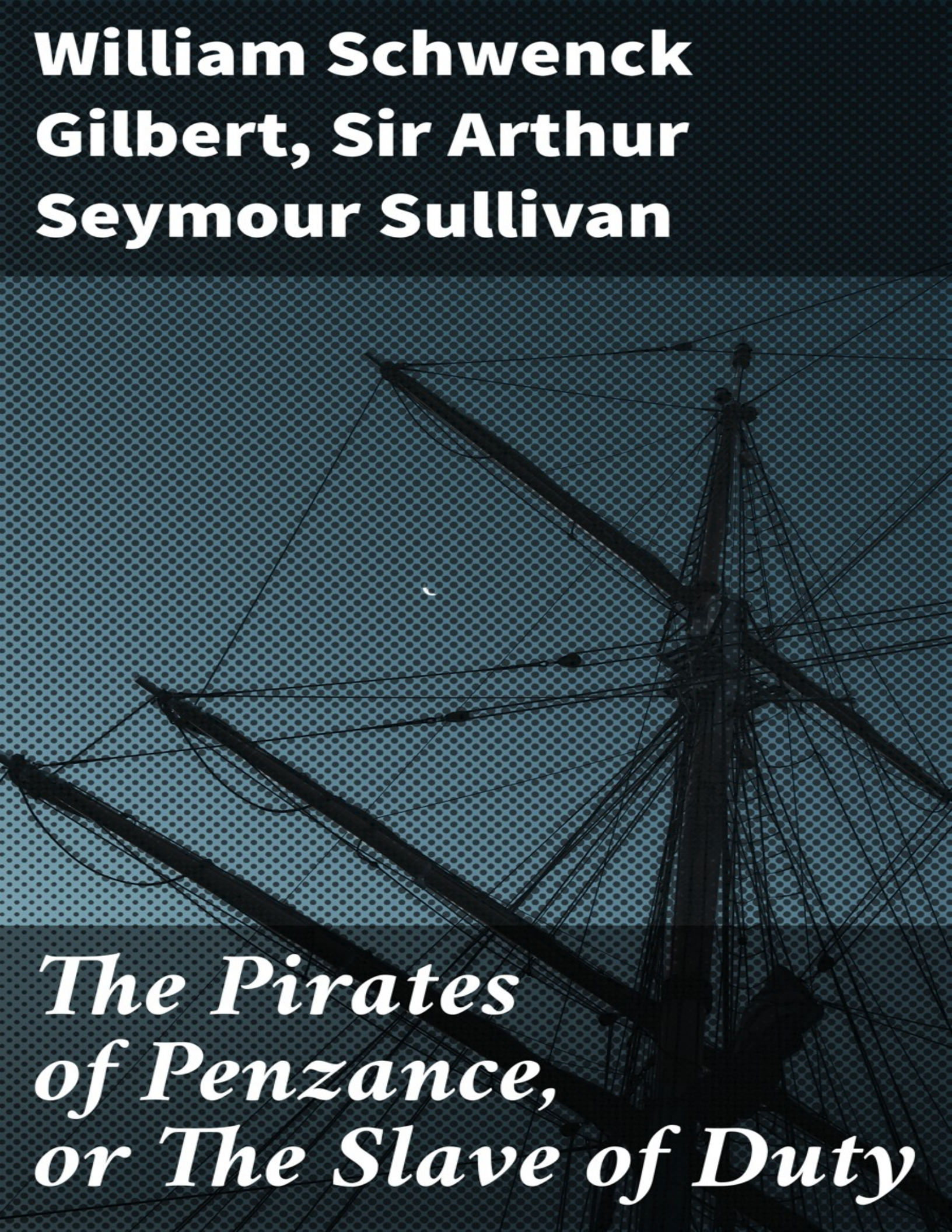


**William Schwenck
Gilbert, Sir Arthur
Seymour Sullivan**



*The Pirates
of Penzance,
or The Slave of Duty*

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The Pirates of Penzance, or The Slave of Duty



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- Ruth (a Pirate Maid of all Work)
- Major-General Stanley
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- Edith (his daughter)
- Kate (his daughter)
- Isabel (his daughter)
- Sergeant of Police
- Chorus of Pirates, Police, and General Stanley's Daughters.

Act I

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*A rocky seashore on the coast of Cornwall. In the distance is a calm sea, on which a schooner is lying at anchor. As the curtain rises groups of pirates are discovered some drinking, some playing cards. **Samuel**, the Pirate Lieutenant, is going from one group to another, filling the cups from a flask. **Frederic** is seated in a despondent attitude at the back of the scene.*

All

Pour, oh, pour the pirate sherry;
Fill, O fill the pirate glass;
And, to make us more than merry,
Let the pirate bumper pass.

Samuel

For today our pirate 'prentice
Rises from indenture freed;
Strong his arm, and keen his scent is
He's a pirate now indeed!

All

Here's good luck to Frederic's ventures!
Frederic's out of his indentures.

Samuel

Two and twenty, now he's rising,
And alone he's fit to fly,
Which we're bent on signaling
With unusual revelry.

All

Here's good luck to Frederic's ventures!
Frederic's out of his indentures.

Pour, oh, pour the pirate sherry;
Fill, O fill the pirate glass;
And, to make us more than merry,
Let the pirate bumper pass.

***Frederic rises and comes forward with Pirate King,
who enters.***

Pirate King

Yes, Frederic, from to-day you rank as a full-blown
member of our band.

All

Hurrah!

Frederic

My friends, I thank you all, from my heart, for your
kindly wishes. Would that I could repay them as they
deserve!

Pirate King

What do you mean?

Frederic

To-day I am out of my indentures, and to-day I leave you for ever.

Pirate King

But this is quite unaccountable; a keener hand at scuttling a Cunarder or cutting out a P. & O. never shipped a handspike.

Frederic

Yes, I have done my best for you. And why? It was my duty under my indentures, and I am the slave of duty. As a child I was regularly apprenticed to your band. It was through an error -- no matter, the mistake was ours, not yours, and I was in honour bound by it.

Samuel

An error? What error?

Frederic

I may not tell you; it would reflect upon my well-loved Ruth.

Ruth rises and comes forward.

Ruth

Nay, dear master, my mind has long been gnawed by the cankering tooth of mystery. Better have it out at once.

Ruth sings

Ruth

When Frederic was a little lad he proved so brave and daring,

His father thought he'd 'prentice him to some career seafaring.

I was, alas! his nurserymaid, and so it fell to my lot

To take and bind the promising boy apprentice to a pilot

A life not bad for a hardy lad, though surely not a high lot,