

## *The BALLAD of the MAERSK ALABAMA*

IN THE [AM] MONTH OF APRIL OH OH NINE  
OFF [DM] AFRICA'S EASTERN SHORE  
AN [E] AMERICAN SHIP IS SOUTHWARD BOUND  
AT [AM] FIFTEEN KNOTS OR MORE  
HER [AM] CARGO OF FOOD TO SUSTAIN THE LIVES  
OF THE [DM] CONTINENT'S STARVING POOR  
BUT [E] EVIL MEN HAVE OTHER PLANS  
THAT HER [AM] 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 [F] WORKS ON [C] OTHERS  
WON'T [G] WORK ON [C] US  
AS YOU'LL [DM] FIND OUT IN THE [E] END  
YOU MAY [F] STRIKE FEAR [C] INTO THE [G] OTHER [C] GUYS  
IT WON'T [B] WORK ON [E] US, MY [AM] 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*

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 ...*