

THE TREASURE OF EDDIE JONES

BY SUSAN REICHERT



Time travel ... pirates ... adventure. What young person wouldn't enjoy reading *The Curse of Captain LaFoote*? Perfect swashbuckling fun.

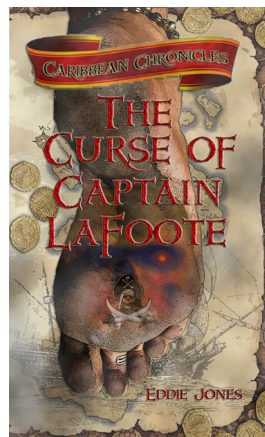
Setting sail with scalliwags is just as much fun for its author, Eddie Jones. "When my boys were young, I'd tell pirate stories on the bow of our sailboat. I've always been fascinated by the stories of boys snatched away from London and Bristol and forced to serve before the mast. I wanted to send a modern-day boy back to the era of pirates and see how he'd fare. He has contemporary knowledge but lacks the skills the old sailors had. He teaches them basketball; they teach him how to hear his father's voice calling to him on the wind."



A boat swab at heart, as well as a writing coach, Jones has written for four decades on subjects ranging from sailing to story structure. Besides steering him in a new direction, *The Curse of Captain LaFoote* represents a departure from the typical pirate plot. For its 15-year-old hero, Jones says it's "a quest to find his father, soul mate, and purpose in life. For guys, finding their father and gaining his approval is huge. Finding love and legacy are high on the list, too."

The book is a tweens/teens with a PG-13 rating due to a few killings. "You know how it was with pirates. It's a pirate romance, so while I aimed to attract boys I think girls will enjoy it, too. The female is a strong character."

More and more authors are aligning their books with charities and organizations, donating portions of their sales. Inspired by a friend, Jones gave his young male lead epilepsy, which has not only been a valuable plot point but an opportunity to educate others about the disorder. "My goal is to raise \$10,000 for the Epilepsy Foundation. For landlubbers and pirates alike,



with each book sold, the publisher will donate a few pieces of eight—half a sandy dollar—to the Epilepsy Foundation. Regardless of how well the book sells, if it helps others become "Seizure Smart" and raises money to fight epilepsy, it's a success."

An upstairs office just down the hall from his bedroom prevents him from wasting precious writing time being caught in morning traffic. "I boot up my laptop, go downstairs, get the paper, fix my coffee and come back up to write. If I'm working on a novel—and I'm always working on a novel—I create 1000 new words a day."

In addition to the next book in the Caribbean Chronicles—*Dead Calm, Bone Dry*—Jones is working on an adult romance and numerous other projects. Adhering to a schedule helps him keep an even keel. "I write on my novels from 7:30 to 11:30 each morning. In the afternoon I ghostwrite, work on freelance work and market my book and Christian Devotions Ministries. After my nap, I return to my writing, take a walk and finish up."

Jones' marketing for *The Curse of Captain LaFoote* includes a website (www.captainlafoote.com), online interaction, and speaking engagements, where he gives lads and lasses a crow's-nest view of buccaneering while enlightening them about epilepsy.

When an author weaves life lessons into an adventurous backdrop, that's a pretty good hook. Helping charity is another 'feather in their cap'. When they combine and give young people a love for reading, well, that is a lasting treasure. Eddie said, "My goal in writing this book was to spur the imagination of young readers. Boys especially. I wanted to create within them a desire to read and set sail for a life of adventure, wherever that journey may take them." ■

