

# The Cut Lass

Description: An American M1941 Naval Cutlass, in excellent condition. The scabbard for it is new, and is made out of Amaranth wood. The blade has been inscribed with abstract patterns reminiscent of scrimshaw, with a mermaid holding a compass rose on one side (the compass rose appears to be bisecting the mermaid: hence, the name). On the other is the inscription *Whosoever Holds This Blade Be The King Of All Pirates.*

Possible powers: charisma, improved reflexes, danger sense, possibly wealth accumulation. If the Cut Lass does grant supernatural powers to its wielder, immunity to damage is *not* one of them.

*Whosoever Holds This Blade Be The King Of All Pirates.* Is this true? ...Maybe? The one psychometrist that got her hands on the Cut Lass reported that the sword has an unique aura: it was the last sword used by an American soldier to kill a man in combat. That gave it a remarkable psychic destiny reservoir, which *might* be enough to sustain something as powerful as 'The King of All Pirates.' Unfortunately, the sword was stolen before more tests could be run, which happens a lot with this item.

In the fifty years that the Cut Lass has been around, it's been documented as being in the hands of fourteen individuals, all of whom could be accurately described as pirates of one type or another. Digital pirates, corporate raiders, bandit gang leaders, the home office of the Pittsburgh Pirates in 1979 (that one was unique in that it traded hands peacefully)... and, of course, people who go out onto the ocean on boats to steal things.

There's been rather more of that lately, in fact. The current holder of the Cut Lass is an Indonesian pirate working out of the Straits of Malacca, and he's doing extremely well for himself these days. So much so that it's time to send a team to go take away his possibly enchanted item. Use of force *is* authorized. The potential King of All Pirates is not a nice person, and the Cut Lass typically is acquired by killing the previous owner (we're still not sure how the baseball team got it). It might be *easier* to capture it via a boarding action. One thing, though: when you acquire the Cut Lass, bring it back.

We repeat: *Bring. It. Back.* Immediately, without fail, and certainly without splicing the mainbrace first.

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