

## **Your Shortcut to... Outlaws and Rebels**

She stole a young mermaid's voice, but boy can she sing. He wore a tin can on his head and ended up on a postage stamp. They chained themselves to fences, and won the right to vote. This is your Squiz Kids Shortcut to Outlaws and Rebels — the podcast where we dive into the who, what, when, where, why, and how of the big news stories. I'm Christie Kijurina.

And I'm Bryce Corbett.

Heyyy Bryce...

Yes, Christie?

You know what's hitting cinemas this week? Bad Guys 2! The gang of animal criminals who want to go straight... but can't help being a little bit bad.

They're the best kind of bad... likeable bad! You want them to succeed... but also kinda want them to keep breaking the rules!

Why is it that some of the baddest bad guys and gals in movies and sometimes in real life, are the ones we secretly cheer for? Sometimes the so-called "baddies" are actually the ones we understand most.

Today, we're unmasking the rebels and rule-breakers who go from villains to heroes — the ones who steal, fight, and stir up trouble... but somehow end up with our respect. From pirates and suffragettes to tin-can-helmet-wearing bushrangers... we're asking: Who are these rebels? Why do we sometimes cheer for them? And what can they teach us? So grab your black cape and your eyepatch, and let's get stuck in...

Listen carefully. There's a S'Quiz at the end.

WHO

So, who are the villains and rebels we weirdly admire? Well, let's start with the fictional ones, the ones we meet in movies or cartoons, and somehow end up rooting for.

Even when we probably shouldn't! Like Gru — the villain from Despicable Me. He wants to steal the moon, for goodness' sake! But he's also a bit of a softie. He adopts three girls, learns to care, and suddenly — he's the bad guy we all love.

And then there's Ursula from The Little Mermaid. Total sea witch. Steals Ariel's voice and sings about being nasty... but she was banished from the palace, remember? Maybe she's just lashing out because she felt excluded.

And Gargamel from The Smurfs! He's always trying to catch those little blue creatures, but he lives alone in a crumbling castle with just his cat. I mean, maybe he just wants someone to talk to?

Or how about Elphaba, the so-called Wicked Witch from Wicked. She's misunderstood too. She tries to stand up to injustice, but everyone assumes she's evil just because she looks different.

And my personal favourite...Robin Hood! He's technically a thief, but he's stealing from the rich to give to the poor. Total rebel — total legend.

Hmmm... makes you think maybe some of these baddies aren't completely evil, maybe they're just misunderstood. Outsiders. Misfits. And that makes us feel a little sorry for them... or even cheer for them.

So that's all well and good... but those villains are all made up. Why on Earth do we cheer for real-life baddies?

## WHY

OK, let's dive into the real world now, and meet some rebels who didn't come from cartoons or fairy tales, but from history and see if we can figure out why we cheer them on. First, let's take Ann Bonny and Mary Read. They were real-life pirates in the 1700s who dressed as men, sailed the high seas, and joined a crew of rule-breaking outlaws.

That's right. They weren't just along for the ride either. They fought in battles, outsmarted soldiers, and even refused to surrender when their ship was captured!

And here in Australia, there's Ned Kelly, the most famous bushranger of them all. He robbed banks, got into gunfights with police, and wore homemade armour in a final, wild standoff.

He was caught and executed... but now there are statues of him, his story's been turned into movies, and some people even see him as a kind of folk hero.

Then there's Bonnie and Clyde, a young couple in the 1930s who became famous for robbing banks in the United States. Newspapers made them look like glamorous rebels... even though they were dangerous and broke the law.

So what's going on here? Why do we sometimes cheer for people who did the wrong thing?

I think maybe it's because they stood up to powerful systems. Or because they were brave, or clever. Or maybe because they remind us of something deeper, that rules and society aren't always fair.

Which brings us to some rebels who weren't just rule-breakers... they were change-makers. Christie, what can rebels teach us and can they actually change the world?

## WHAT

Bryce, let's go wayyy back to the early 1800s, to a young Aboriginal woman in Tasmania named Tarenorerer (tara -nor-e-nar)... also known as Walyer. She had been captured and enslaved as a child, but escaped, and returned as a warrior, leading a group of Aboriginal fighters against British invaders.

She even used British weapons and tactics and refused to back down. At the time, the colonists called her dangerous... but today, many remember her as a freedom fighter.

Exactly. And you know who else changed history with one small act of rebellion? Rosa Parks. In 1955, in the United States, she refused to give up her seat on a bus to a white passenger. She was arrested, but her quiet protest helped spark the civil rights movement. Just one person. One small action. One huge ripple effect.

But not all rebels changed the world with quiet protest, Christie, I reckon some Squiz Kids might know about the Eureka Stockade.

I reckon they might!

Right here in Australia, in 1854, a group of gold miners built a stockade in Ballarat to protest unfair taxes. They were called the Eureka Rebels, and even though their battle was short and brutal, it led to fairer voting rights for miners and helped to shape the democracy we live in today.

And the suffragettes are another example... a group of women who fought for the right to vote in the early 1900s. Because I know it's hard to believe - but it wasn't all that long ago that women were not allowed to vote in elections. I know, crazy, right? It led to the rise of the suffragettes - and in some countries, like the UK, they broke windows, set fires, and chained themselves to fences. They were arrested, force-fed in prison, and treated harshly.

Whoa. I didn't know they went that far.

They believed peaceful protests had been ignored for too long and that dramatic action was the only way to be heard. And eventually, they did win the right to vote. But it makes you wonder...

Could they have done it another way? And is it OK to hurt things or break laws if you're fighting for something that matters?

Those are big, important questions. And they're part of what makes rebels so interesting. They're not always perfect. But they often force us, and the world, to think differently. So, Bryce, being a rebel isn't always simple, is it?

Nope. Some rebels fight for justice. Some just want attention. Some break the rules to make things better, and others break the rules for less noble reasons. That's why it's

important to stop and think. Not just what someone did, but why they did it. What were they fighting for? And did they help change things for the better?

### THE S'QUIZ

"This is the part of the podcast where you get to test how well you've been listening...

1. Which fictional thief is famous for robbing from the rich to give to the poor? (Robin Hood)"

2 Name the two female pirates who masqueraded as men so they could sail the seven seas. (Ann Bonny and Mary Read)

3 In which Victorian city did the Eureka Stockade take place? (Ballarat)

That's all we have time for today. Thanks for joining us as we explored the who, what, how, where, when, and why of Outlaws and Rebels!

Now get out there, and have a most excellent day!

Over and out.