

## Top Five mistakes I have made

1. Going to Somalia in the first place. I was fascinated with piracy and their ways, but now that I have experienced them, I hate how curious I was.
2. The hunger strikes. Protesting for what you believe in is a wonderful thing that can make you fill with pride, but for me, I felt empty and sick. My protests were met with the answers I wanted, but I didn't want to have to resort to the extreme everytime I wanted to see a real doctor.
3. Learning about my father's true cause of death. He committed suicide, and the whole time I was captured, I was haunted by him and wondered if I would meet the same fate. Is it almost better that I wouldn't have really known what happened to him?
4. Having to leave Julianne. That cat was (other than Rolly) my best friend during my time in Somalia. Yes she was an annoyance and wasn't all that clean, but she was sweet and loving and I wish I hadn't left her. But what choice did I have? The pirates didn't even like her that much anyway.
5. Giving myself false senses of hope. I was told I was free a couple times before I was actually sent free. And everytime I fell for it. I wish I hadn't because everytime got more and more sad as the next day came and I was still in Somalia. It made everything worse. I don't know if they did that on purpose, or if they really didn't know either, but it hurt everytime.

The reason I decided to add these mistakes was because a quote that was used many times in the story was "You have made a mistake, mistakes are human." This really stood out to me as the main idea or theme of this book because throughout the story, Michael makes many mistakes that he probably regrets, and not only does he make mistakes, but so do the other people around him like the pirates. I think the idea of mistakes is a very important part of the story, and that is why I made this list.