



# **THE GHOST PIRATES**

**WILLIAM HOPE HODGSON**

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**THE  
GHOST PIRATES**

**BY  
WILLIAM HOPE HODGSON**

1909

The Ghost Pirates By William Hope Hodgson.

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# CONTENTS

Dedication

Author's Preface

The Hell O! O! Chaunty

1. The Figure Out Of The Sea

2. What Tammy The 'Prentice Saw

3. The Man Up The Main

4. The Fooling With The Sail

5. The End Of Williams

6. Another Man To The Wheel

7. The Coming Of The Mist, And That Which It Ushered

8. After The Coming Of The Mist

9. The Man Who Cried For Help

10. Hands That Plucked

11. The Search For Stubbins

12. The Council

13. The Shadow In The Sea

14. The Ghost Ships

15. The Great Ghost Ship

16. The Ghost Pirates

Appendix. The Silent Ship











































































































































































































































































































































































After the Mate and the Captain had said they saw the men boarding her, we began to hear sounds from her; very queer at first and rather like a phonograph makes when it's getting up speed. Then the sounds came properly from her, and we heard them shouting and yelling; and, you know, I don't know even now just what I really thought. I was all so queer and mixed.

The next thing I remember there was a thick mist round the ship; and then all the noise was shut off, as if it were all the other side of a door. But we could still see her masts and spars and sails above the misty stuff; and both the Captain and the Mate said they could see men aloft; and I thought I could; but the Second Mate wasn't sure. All the same though, the sails were all loosed in about a minute, it seemed, and the yards mastheaded. We couldn't see the courses above the mist; but Jessop says they were loosed too and sheeted home along with the upper sails. Then we saw the yards squared and I saw the sails fill bang up with wind; and yet, you know, ours were slatting.

The next thing was the one that hit me more than anything. Her masts took a cant forrard, and then I saw her stem come up out of the mist that was round her. Then, all in an instant, we could hear sounds from the vessel again. And I tell you, the men didn't seem to be shouting, but screaming. Her stern went higher. It was most extraordinary to look at; and then she went plunk down, head foremost, right bang into the mist-stuff.

It's all right what Jessop says, and when we saw him swimming (I was the one who spotted him) we got out a boat quicker than a wind-jammer ever got out a boat before, I should think.

The Captain and the Mate and the Second and I are all going to sign this.

(Signed) WILLIAM NAWSTON Master.

J. E. G. ADAMS First Mate.

ED. BROWN Second Mate.

JACK T. EVAN Third Mate.

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