

**ADRIFT ON THE SEA
OR THE CHILDREN'S
ESCAPE**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649038114

Adrift on the Sea or the Children's Escape by Emilia Marryat Norris

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RELIEF AT LAST.—PAGE 122.

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OR

THE CHILDREN'S ESCAPE

BY

EMILIA MARRYAT NORRIS

AUTHOR OF 'THE EARLY START IN LIFE,' 'STOLEN CHERRIES,'
'A WEEK BY THEMSELVES,' ETC.

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS



LONDON: GRIFFITH AND FARRAN

SUCCESSORS TO NEWBERRY AND HARRIS

CORNER OF ST. PAUL'S CHURCHYARD

MDCCCLXXI

250. c. 404

EDINBURGH:
THOMAS AND ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE,
PRINTERS TO THE QUEEN, AND TO THE UNIVERSITY.

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CHAPTER I.

THE INVITATION TO THE SEA-SIDE.

HERE'S a lark!' cried Arthur, running into the playroom, with a very red face.

'Where? how did you catch him?

Take care he does not fly away!' screamed George, jumping from his seat and throwing down a book he was reading. Then a moment after, he looked disappointed and said, 'Where is the lark, Arty? I don't see it.'

'But I see a goose plain enough,' said Arthur, who thought himself a very witty boy. 'I see a goose standing in front of me, and his name is George Layton. There are other larks than those that have wings, and better larks a great deal.'

'I don't understand you,' said George.

'He means something funny, I think,' said Bessie.

'I'll tell you what I mean, little woman,' said Arthur, in the way he had heard his papa speak sometimes to the little girl, 'I mean a lark of great fun, and—and, in fact, a great lark.'

'Oh!' said George, although not quite satisfied with the explanation; 'but why is it called a lark?'

'Why, I am sure, I don't know, excepting that everybody calls it so,' said Arthur, 'besides, it is a lark; that is why it is called so.'

Which was a very fine reason, was it not?

'But what is your great fun?' asked Bessie.

'Open wide your ears, and hear,' said Arthur. 'Would it not be a lark to go to the sea-side?'

'Are we?' said Georgie.

'Well, we have been asked. I'll tell you. You know Aunt Harriette is staying at the sea-side.'

'Where?' asked Bessie.

'I forget the name of the place,' said Arthur; 'some little quiet sort of a place; where, they tell me, a fellow can do just as he likes; the sort of place that suits me.'

'Are you the fellow?' asked Bessie.

'Don't be impertinent, Bess,' said Arthur, who was now seated upon the table, dangling his legs