JACK HARKAWAY IN GREECE

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Jack Harkaway in Greece by Bracebridge Hemyng

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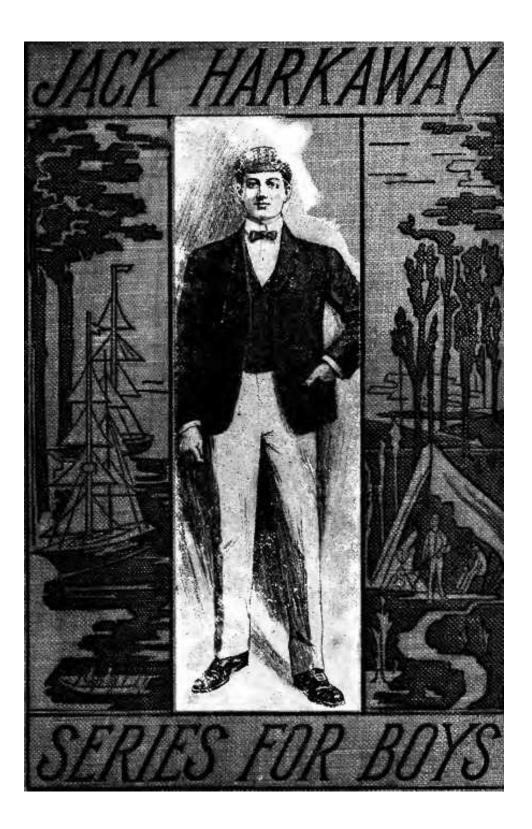
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By

BRACEBRIDGE HEMYNG

Author of the " Jack Harkaway" Stories

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Jack Harkaway in Greece.

CHAPTER I.

ON THE ISLAND OF TREASURE.

"Welcome to Magic Island!"

Jack Harkaway and his party had at last arrived at the treasure island in the Greeian Archipelago, conducted thither by Spirillo, the ex-pirate.

As their ship sailed into the beautiful creek, Harkaway's son, young Jack, sang out:

"Welcome to Magic Island!"

Magic Island. It was happily named by young Jack.

"If that is Magic Island," cried little Emily, his sweetheart, the daughter of Dick Harvey, his father's oldest friend, "this I will christen Fairy Creek."

"Hurrah! bravo, Emily!" cried Jack,

This was not less happy than young Jack's name, and it was as generally adopted.

A consultation was held upon deck between Jack Harkaway, his old friend, Dick Harvey; the two Americans, Mr. Jefferson and Magog Brand; Spirillo, the ex-pirate; the two detectives, Nabley and Pike, and lastly, Isaac Mole, the old tutor.

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"Before we land, Spirillo," said Jack Harkaway, "tell me, do you think that we have to apprehend anything like a surprise?"

"Hardly," was Spirillo's reply, "while we are in any force."

"Do you think there is any danger?" asked Jack.

"To anyone of us venturing about alone—yes, great danger. While we are in parties—no. But I must not disguise from you, gentlemen all, that we have an ugly enemy to face in the owner of this island."

"Whom have we to fear?" said young Jack, coming up at that moment.

"Monastos, the pirate chief, boy," said Spirillo. "He has the patience of the cat watching for the mouse, and to this quality he adds the ferocity of the tiger."

Mr. Mole coughed.

"This is a most objectionable party," he said, "and I propose that we give him a wide berth."

"You had better, Mr. Mole," said Dick, "or he'll make short work of your scaffolding."

"What?" cried Mr. Mole. "My scaffolding?"

"I beg pardon. I mean your woodwork, your understanding."

Mr. Mole gasped,

He was riled when anyone made fun of his wooden legs.

"Mr. Harvey, if you were not my old friend, I should certainly demand satisfaction."

"By all means," returned Dick, cheerfully.

Harkaway put an end to any further discussion, by plunging at once into the arrangements for the safe conduct of the expedition against the pirates. "Mr. Nabley must be left in command with Mr. Pike," said Harkaway.

"Very good, sir."

" "The watch must be kept with the greatest vigilance night and day."

"Of course."

"Each watch must be composed of at least three persons."

"Yes."

"During the night watches, a patrol must pass along the deck, at intervals of not more than ten minutes."

"Good !" said Spirillo, nodding approvingly.

"We show our confidence in you," said Harvey, taking Pike and his comrade, Nabley, each by the hand, "by leaving in your care our lives and all who are dear to us in the world. If we betray a little anxiety in making our parting conditions and rules, it must not surprise you."

"It does not,"

"No," added Pike, with warmth, "we are, indeed, grateful for your confidence-ch, Nabley?"

"Indeed, we are."

"Rather,"

"You may count upon our zeal," said Nabley. "We have been used to watching, and waiting, too, for the matter of that; ch, Dan?"

"Ah! indeed."

"Now then, my friends," said Harkaway, earnestly, "for our parting word. We are going upon an excursion of some danger; we mustn't attempt to disguise that fact to ourselves.

"It only behooves us to show that better part of

valor, discretion, upon all occasions, and if I don't mistake, we shall do big things. There must be one fixed word of understanding between us. Should there be great danger on either side, a blue light shall be burned, and that shall be the signal of recall," continued Harkaway.

"Good !"

These words sank deeply into everybody's mind.

"In other words, the blue light shall be an appeal to the others for aid."

"That's an understanding," said Jefferson; "but, please the pigs, there will be no need for blue lights."

"Amen to that," said his little friend, Magog.

"Well, now, Spirillo," said Harvey, "when you are ready."

"Forward!"

"One word more," said the ex-pirate. "Let us refer to the maps we have got, and do everything in proper, orderly style."

"Of course,"

"Let us have the charts up."

"Good !"

A man was sent to the saloon for the maps and charts in question, and they were spread out on the top of a big chest on the deck.

"Before we go into this job deeply," said Harkaway, "I propose that we adjourn to tiffin."

"I second the honorable member's motion," said Mr. Mole, with great gravity.

"And I, too," said Harvey, "for I am beastly hungry."

"And I'm filthily peckish," added Jefferson.

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