

# **CAPTAIN CRAIG; A BOOK OF POEMS**

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Captain Craig; a book of poems by Edwin Arlington Robinson

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**EDWIN ARLINGTON ROBINSON**

**CAPTAIN CRAIG; A  
BOOK OF POEMS**



CAPTAIN CRAIG

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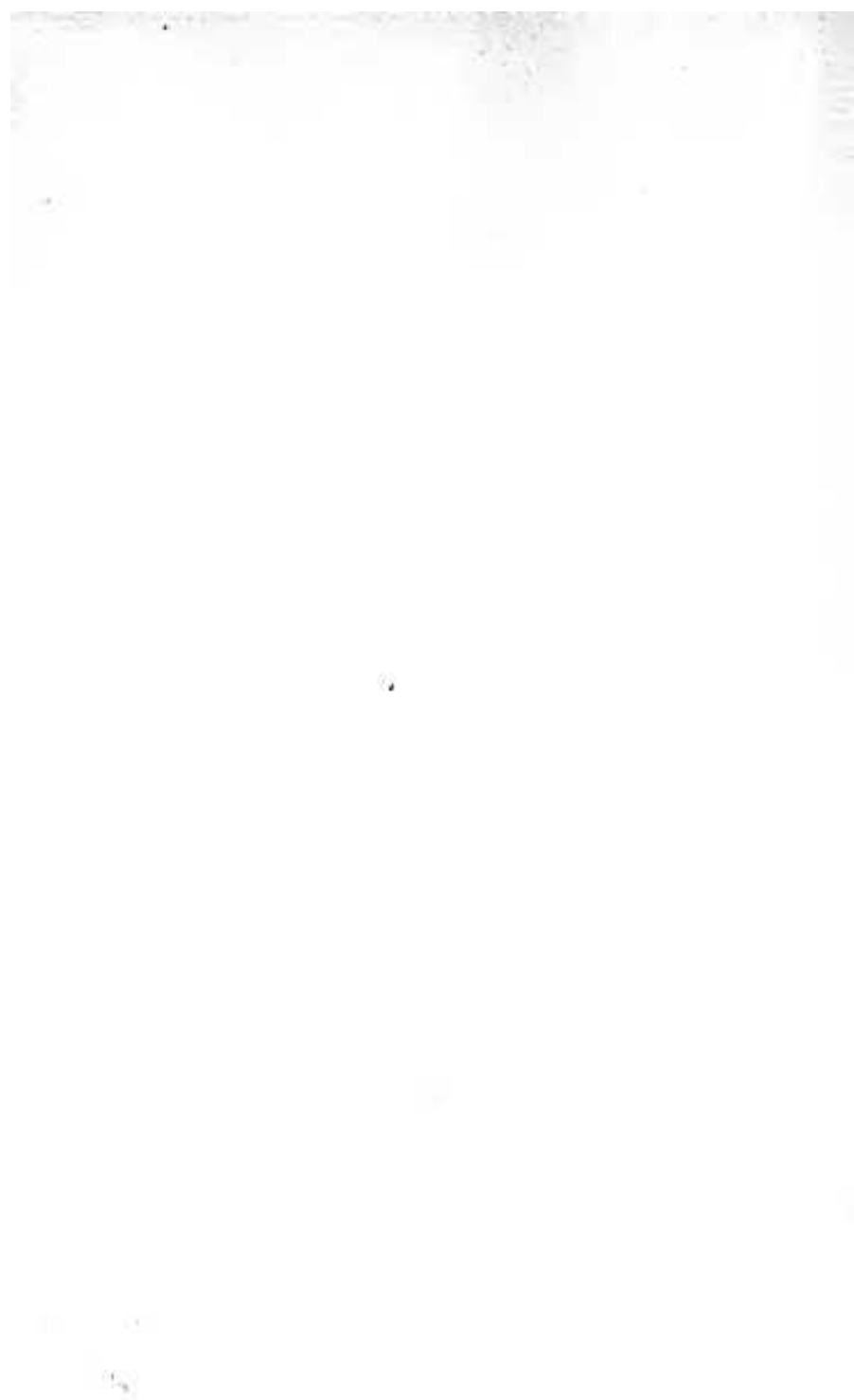
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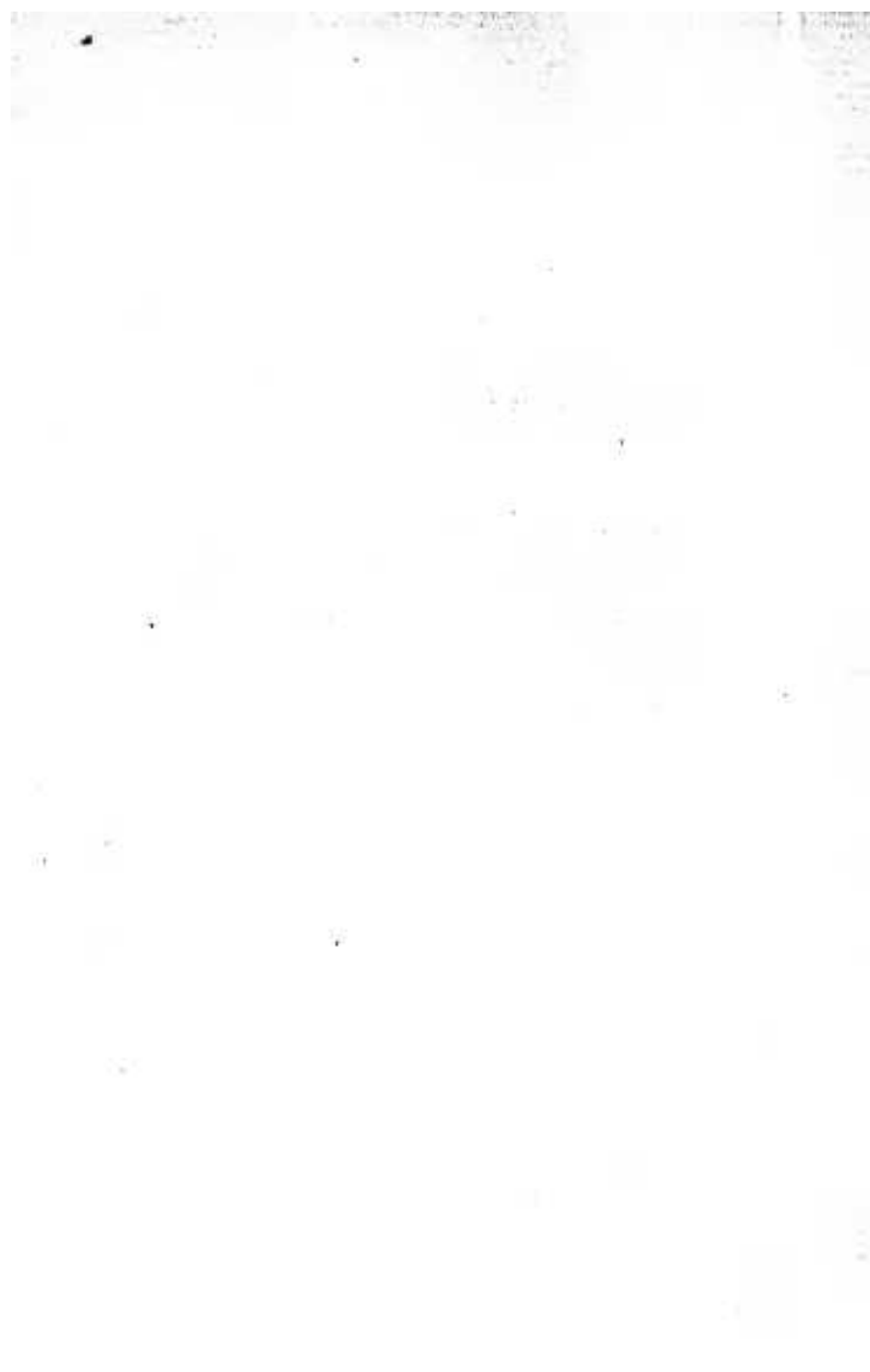
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## CAPTAIN CRAIG

### I

I DOUBT if ten men in all Tilbury Town  
Had ever shaken hands with Captain Craig,  
Or called him by his name, or looked at him  
So curiously, or so concernedly,  
As they had looked at ashes; but a few —  
Say five or six of us — had found somehow  
The spark in him, and we had fanned it there,  
Choked under, like a jest in Holy Writ,  
By Tilbury prudence. He had lived his life,  
And he had shared, with all of humankind,  
Inveterate leave to fashion of himself,  
By some resplendent metamorphosis,  
Whatever he was not. And after time,  
When it had come sufficiently to pass  
That he was going patch-clad through the streets,  
Weak, dizzy, chilled, and half starved, he had  
laid  
Some nerveless fingers on a prudent sleeve  
And told the sleeve, in furtive confidence,