

**CICELY FROME, THE
CAPTAIN'S
DAUGHTER**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649124787

Cicely Frome, the captain's daughter by Bessie Marchant

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
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BESSIE MARCHANT

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"Yes, that's what did it,"—CICELY FROME, p. 11.

Frontispiece.

CICELY FROME
THE CAPTAIN'S DAUGHTER

BY

BESSIE MARCHANT

AUTHOR OF

"AMONG THE TORCHES OF THE ANDES" ETC.

WITH FOUR ORIGINAL ILLUSTRATIONS

EDINBURGH
W. P. NIMMO, HAY, & MITCHELL



PR
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CICELY FROME



CHAPTER I

CICELY FROME



HE was a big girl of ten, with a shock of rough hair, a plain face, and grey eyes; a very ordinary sort of girl to look at, it was only when you came to know her that you discovered any difference in Cicely Frome.

From babyhood up to this mature age of ten years she had lived with her mother, her grandfather, and her step-brother Bernard Alderson, in the old farmhouse on the turnpike road to Hawkesbury.

Her father she only saw at rare intervals, when he had time for a few days of rest and holiday between his voyages; for he was captain of a big ocean liner, and his work was hard and

anxious, his playing spells being few and far between.

But the times of his home-coming were the red-letter days in Cicely's life ; for she loved him with all the warm devotion of her impulsive, affectionate heart, and deemed him the wisest, handsomest man, and the bravest sailor the world had ever seen. And he could tell such wonderful stories of his life and adventures at sea, until she cried herself to sleep in hopeless despair, night after night, because she was not a boy who could develop into a sailor later on. But she was comforted eventually by remembering that she could ship herself as a stewardess, by and by, when she had arrived at years of discretion.

Meanwhile she grew as fast as she could, which was very fast indeed, reckoning by the many times in a year that her frocks needed making longer ; and she got into so much mischief that, according to Mrs. Frome and Bernard, she might be almost said to live in a state of constant pickledom, which means that period of one's existence during which one is either actually doing the mischief or paying the penalty thereof.

This was the more trying to Mrs. Frome