

SOUTH SEA TALES

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South Sea Tales by Jack London

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JACK LONDON

**SOUTH
SEA TALES**

SOUTH SEA TALES

Blue

BY

JACK LONDON

AUTHOR OF "ADVENTURE," "BURNING DAYLIGHT,"
"THE CALL OF THE WILD," ETC.

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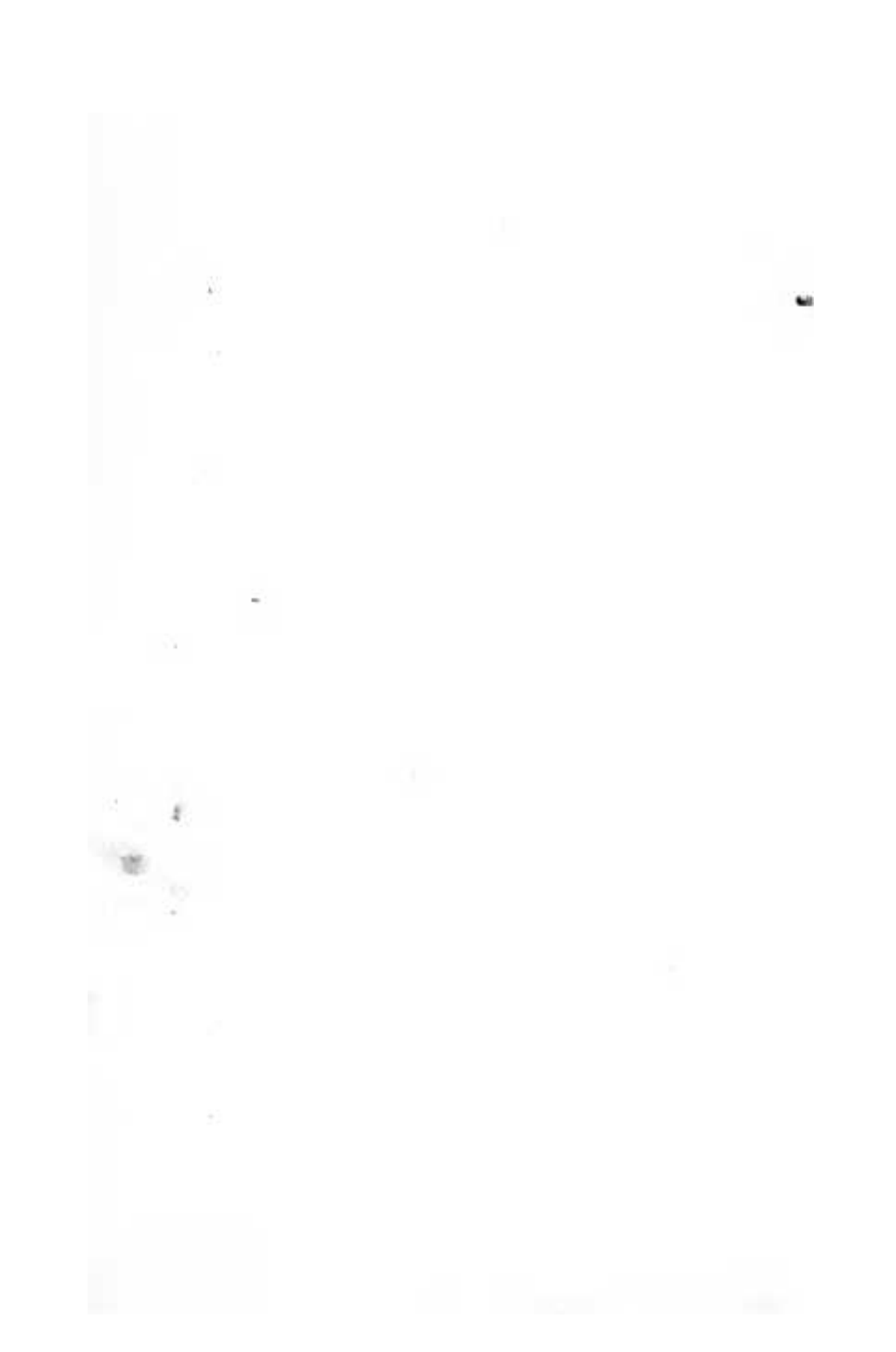
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THE HOUSE OF MAPUHI



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THE HOUSE OF MAPUHI

DESPITE the heavy clumsiness of her lines, the *Aorai* handled easily in the light breeze, and her captain ran her well in before he hove to just outside the suck of the surf. The atoll of Hikueru lay low on the water, a circle of pounded coral sand a hundred yards wide, twenty miles in circumference, and from three to five feet above high-water mark. On the bottom of the huge and glassy lagoon was much pearl shell, and from the deck of the schooner, across the slender ring of the atoll, the divers could be seen at work. But the lagoon had no entrance for even a trading schooner. With a favoring breeze cutters could win in through the tortuous and shallow channel, but the schooners lay off and on outside and sent in their small boats.