

**THE  
HUMAN BOY**

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The human boy by Eden Phillpotts

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**EDEN PHILLPOTTS**

**THE  
HUMAN BOY**



# THE HUMAN BOY

BY

EDEN PHILLPOTTS

AUTHOR OF "CHILDREN OF THE MIST"  
"FOLLY AND FRESH AIR" ETC.



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TO

PHILLPOTTS "MINOR"

AS A TRIFLING TRIBUTE OF FRATERNAL REGARD  
AND IN GREEN AND GRATEFUL MEMORY OF

OUR HAPPY BOYHOOD

*Argo*

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# The Human Boy



## The Artfulness of Steggle

### I

I REMEMBER the very evening he came to Merivale. "Nubby" Tomkins had a cold on his chest, so Mathers and I stopped in from the half-hour "kick-about" in the playground before tea, being chums of Nubby's. Whenever he gets a cold on the chest he thinks he is going to die, and this evening, sitting by the fire in the Fifth's class-room, he roasted chestnuts for Mathers and me, and took a very gloomy view of his future life.

"As you know," he said, "I hate being out of doors excepting when I can lie about in hay. And to make me go out walking in all weathers, as they do here, is simply murder. I know what 'll be the end of it. I shall get bacilluses or microbes into