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This classic tale by Robert Louis Stevenson (1850–94) was first published as a serial between 1881 and 1882 in the children's magazine *Young Folks*, where it received little attention, and then in the form of this book in 1883, which secured its everlasting fame. Telling the story of the young Jim Hawkins' search for the buried treasure of Captain Flint, it had a profound impact on how pirates were perceived in the popular imagination, immortalising treasure maps marked with an 'X', exotic locations, and one-legged seamen with parrots on their shoulders. Vividly drawn, the character of Long John Silver remains one of the most compelling antagonists in all of children's literature. The work of a masterful storyteller at the height of his powers, this coming-of-age adventure has been adapted for film and television countless times, and continues to delight readers of all ages.

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Robert Louis Stevenson
Frontmatter
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Treasure Island

ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON



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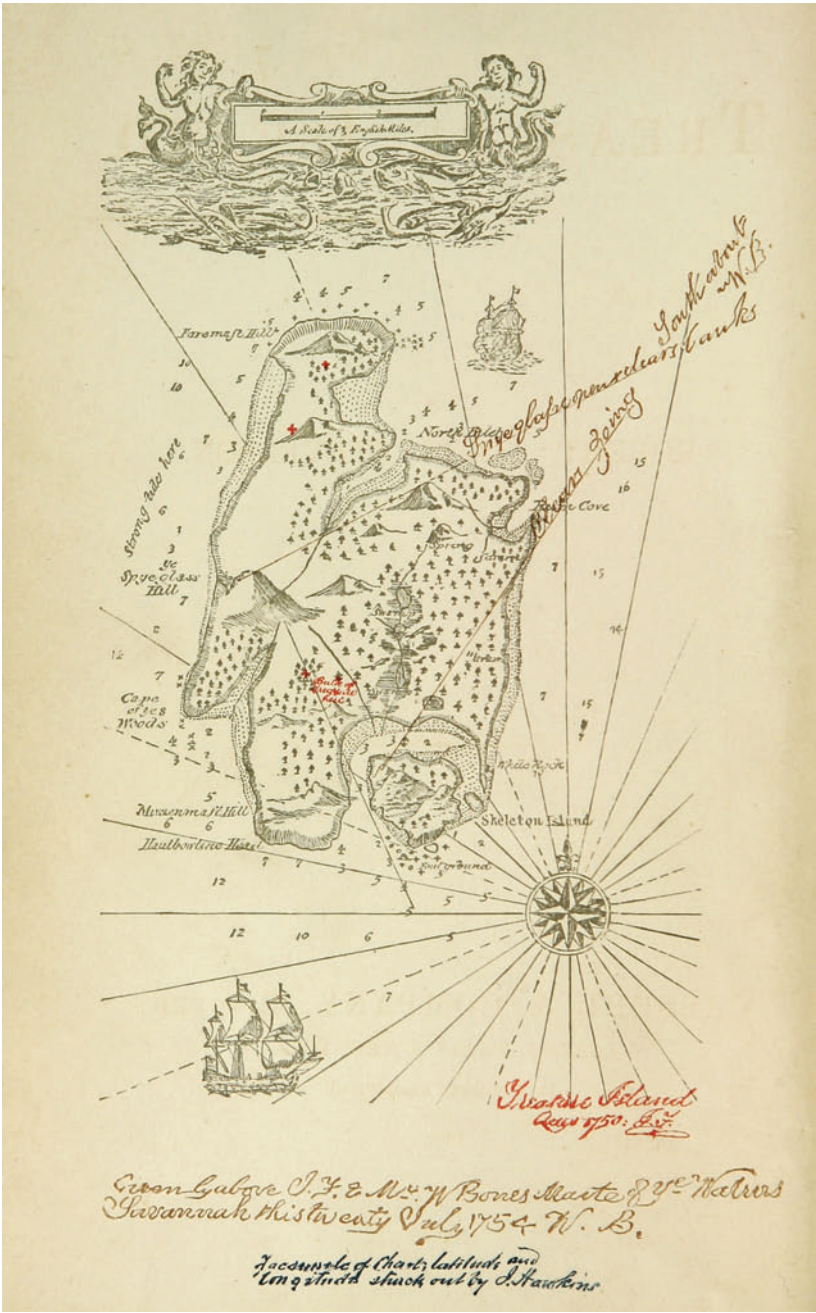
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ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON.



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To
S. L. O.,
AN AMERICAN GENTLEMAN,
IN ACCORDANCE WITH WHOSE CLASSIC TASTE
THE FOLLOWING NARRATIVE HAS BEEN DESIGNED,
IT IS NOW, IN RETURN FOR NUMEROUS DELIGHTFUL HOURS,
AND WITH THE KINDEST WISHES,
Dedicated
BY HIS AFFECTIONATE FRIEND,
THE AUTHOR.

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TO THE HESITATING PURCHASER



If sailor tales to sailor tunes,
Storm and adventure, heat and cold,
If schooners, islands, and maroons
And Buccaneers and buried Gold,
And all the old romance, retold
Exactly in the ancient way,
Can please, as me they pleased of old,
The wiser youngsters of to-day :

—So be it, and fall on ! If not,
If studious youth no longer crave,
His ancient appetites forgot,
Kingston, or Ballantyne the brave,
Or Cooper of the wood and wave :
So be it, also ! And may I
And all my pirates share the grave
Where these and their creations lie !

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