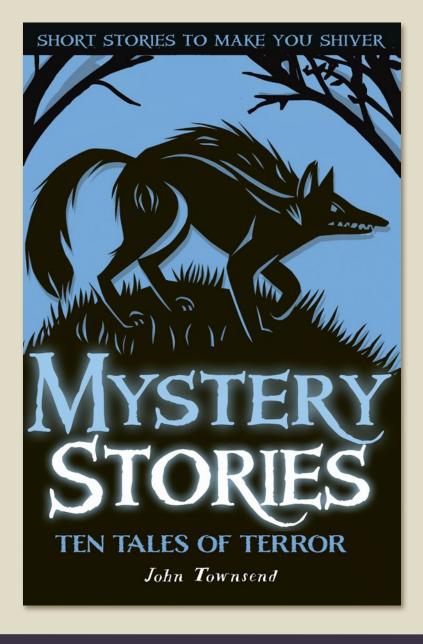
# **Mystery Stories**



## Ten mysterious, spooky short stories

- A wonderful, entertaining introduction to the horror genre and short story writing, perfect for children studying this in English.
- Perfect spooky gift for children to read one story each night in the build up to Halloween.
- Encourages independent reading and exploration of new genres.

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## **Mystery Stories**

#### SHIVERS

In case you are wondering. Dei Gratia is Latin for 'by the grace of God'. She became a wellknown name, all because I told the captain what I'd seen that chilly December day There was a fair wind and the sea was choppy. although I'd known far worse. I was still finding my sea legs and was horribly sick when we first set sail in heavy seas. I always dreaded being told to climb the main mast to deliver a message to the lookout in the crow's nest. Up there you feel the swell far worse and have to cling on tight. Our ship had two masts, so it was called a brigantine. She was built in Canada only the year before, so we were both getting used to crossing the Atlantic. We were apparently 400 miles east of the Azores, some 500 miles from the coast of Portugal. The lookout pointed over to the horizon, but I happened to glance further to my left and saw a tiny speck in the far distance. 'Have you spotted that ship over there?' I

#### MYSTERY STORIES

asked. The lookout held a telescope to his eye. 'That's mighty odd,' he muttered. 'She seems to be out of sorts, if you ask me. Go tell the captain." Cantain Morehouse was concerned and he ordered us to change course. He steered us towards the ship, keeping a close eye on her strange zigzagging through the waves. 'She's going all over the place. Whoever's at the helm must have been on the rum all night." The closer we got to the 'drunken ship', as the captain called her, the more alarmed he became. He called to Mr Deveau, the first mate: That ship is definitely adrift. There's nothing guiding her and she's at risk of keeling over if no one sets her a proper course. Lower the rowing boat and investigate. Take the second mate and the boy and tell me what you find." I gingerly climbed down into the boat and we rowed across to the swaying ship, drawing



up alongside. John Wright, the second mate,

#### SHIVERS

#### MYSTERY STORIES

MYSTERY FACTS Did you know ..

1. During an attempt to fly around the world in 1937, American aviator Amelia Earhart disappeared somewhere over the Pacific Ocean The wreckage of her aircraft was never found. and her disappearance remains one of the big unsolved mysteries of the 20th century Before her disappearance, Amelia Earhart was the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic

2. The search to find the Yeti can be traced back to the time of Alexander the Great, who in 326 BC set out to conquer the Indus Valley and unable to help. The name 'Abominable

#### Gimlin in the Bluff Creek region of northern California. Despite much investigation since that footage from 1967, it is still uncertain whether this was a heax or a genuine sighting. Take a look at it online and decide for yourself - if you dare!

SHIVERS



Bermuda Triangle an area in the Atlantic Ocean between Bermuda, Puerto Rico and Florida where ships and planes have apparently disappeared mysteriously.

MYSTERY STORIES

GLOSSARY

Chupacabra a creature of legend said to live in parts of the Americas, with the first sightings reported in Puerto Rico. The name comes from its reputation for drinking the blood of goats.

Cryptozoology the study of creatures, such as the Chupacabra, the existence of which has not been scientifically proved.

Dire wolf an extinct wolf that was widespread in North America up to about 12,000 years ago. having a larger body and a smaller brain than today's wolf.

#### SHIVERS

her, too - but Miss said we should relax as it was only the cruise boat chugging and making waves.'

He frowned and looked at his watch. 'Not now. Not in the fog it wasn't. Boats don't sail in bad weather. They've all been moored for the past hour. No boats were out on the loch when you heard that noise.' He looked very serious. lowered his voice and added, "The only one brave enough to venture into those dark and misty waters would be the very monster itself.'

Mrs Milligan could only gulp and stare. Apart from that, she still seemed fairly relaxed. So relaxed, she didn't stir. That's because she'd just fainted with a terrified gasp – face down in the man's porridge.

#### MYSTERY STORIES



#### THE GHOST SHIP

was only 12 at the time. It was my first voyage as cabin boy on the ship Dei Gratia in 1872. In fact, it was me who first spotted flapping sails in the distance and reported the drifting vessel to Captain Morehouse. Little did we know what we were about to find.

109

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