

# THE WILDERNESS CASTAWAYS

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## CHAPTER I

### GETTING ACQUAINTED

**D**AN RUDD," roared Captain Zachariah Bluntt, "if I has to tell you again to keep that mouth organ below decks, I'll wring your neck! Yes, wring your neck! By the imps of the sea, I will!"

"Aye, aye, sir," answered Dan Rudd, a robust, sunny-faced sailor lad of sixteen, quickly slipping the offending harmonica, upon which he had been playing a lively air, into his pocket.

Captain Bluntt, impatiently pacing the deck, was plainly in ill humor. His great red beard, standing out like a lion's mane, bristled ominously, and his shaggy eyebrows were drawn down in an unpleasant scowl.

It was two o'clock on a mid-July afternoon,