

## The Girl of the Golden Gate

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watch the course was the same that we had been holding for the previous twenty-four hours. This was at midnight. The third officer and the captain, Graham, were on the bridge. Mr. Lavelle was just being relieved. He said to the captain, Graham: 'I advise you to steer at least three points further to the southward.' We were making a course southeast by east. Graham answered: 'Take your orders or go to your room and stay there. Which will it be?' Mr. Lavelle said: 'I will take my orders.' Other things were said in both these conversations, but what they were I do not know. I give only the parts I heard and remember. The ship struck at fifteen minutes before two. The third officer signaled: 'Full speed astern.' If he had signaled 'Full speed ahead' there would have been but few lives lost. There was a ground swell running, but hardly any sea. Lavelle came on the bridge first. Then came Graham and the fourth officer. Graham was like a crazy man. He kept saying: 'All hands to the boats.' And there were not boats enough aboard for half the ship's company. Mr. Lavelle cursed Graham. Graham said: 'I order you to your boat.' I followed Mr. Lavelle. We had to fight like wild beasts. There were pistols and knives against us at every hand. 'Women and children first; remember, Driscoll.' That is what Mr. Lavelle said to me. The boats were being let go by the run, some half filled and others with not enough in them to man them. We gathered all the women and children